

The HERALD

News about the ministry of
St. Luke's Lutheran Church • Lima, OH



October 2026

REMEMBERING

My family began worshipping at St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran church in 1953. I thought this was the most beautiful place I had ever seen. I was going into the 3rd grade, so my Sunday School teacher was Eloise Spears. We met in the basement in rooms divided with curtains. I was deathly afraid of Mrs. Spears. When I became an adult, Mrs. Spears and I were good friends, but at nine years old, I was terrified. The class must memorize the 23rd Psalm, the Apostles Creed and the 100th Psalm before we could go on to the 4th grade class. When this was accomplished, we received a Bible and went through a white fence gate during a worship service on Rally Day. I was so excited to receive my Bible.

At that time, St. Luke's had a very active children's choir. We met on Saturday morning for an hour or so. I really was in my element. I sang in this choir until about eighth grade. Our director was Blanche Sopher (?). She was an older lady with thinning gray hair. The choir always wore little beanie caps when we sang as did Mrs. Sopher. I thought she wore the cap so the congregation would not see her thinning hair so we all had to wear the caps.

What did mom and dad do when they went to the altar for communion? Children remained in the pew during communion threatened within an inch of our lives if we didn't behave. I knew that kids who had had catechism could have communion. I begged my mom to let me start catechism early. John Berger, pastor, said if I was interested, why not. Interested, yes. Curious, even more. I was the youngest in my class to be confirmed. We all had parts to recite in the worship service. Mine was the books on the Bible and the Ten Commandments (Luther style). Finally, I understood more about Holy Communion and I didn't have to sit alone in the pew.

One dearest experience and memory is Luther League. There were few social activities on Sunday other than family. Luther League met every Sunday evening. Our saintly advisers were Harold and Lucille Crawford. They organized us without us realizing it. Luther League meetings consisted of a Bible study done by members, music, snacks, games, and planning events. We volunteered, went camping, and conducted the Good Friday worship at St. Luke's. I was honored to sing "Were You There" from the balcony each Good Friday. We learned so much and made life long friends.

Then came college, but St. Luke's was not far away. When I was home, I wanted to become involved in something at St. Luke's.

Then came love and marriage. Jim and I were married at St. Luke's soon after the major renovation to the sanctuary. Pastors Wes Runk and John Berger officiated..

Our daughter, Eileen Louise, was baptized at St. Luke's. Pastor Don Bridinger officiated .

Eileen and Steven were married at St. Luke's Pastor Arthur Wilde officiated.

My parents, Harold and Helen Barrick celebration of life was officiated by Pastor Arthur Wilde.

The celebration of life for Jim Schwabero was officiated by Pastor Arthur Wilde.

I have seen so much change at St. Luke's, most positive, some negative. St. Luke's is my family and families do change, but love is always there. My St. Luke's family with God's guidance has shaped my life, for this, I am blessed.

Think of your memories of St. Luke's. Believe me, they will come flooding back. Also remember, God has a divine plan for you. Recognize it and be thankful. Run with it.

Blessings to all of my family.
Mila Schwabero

MISSION STATEMENT "Saved by grace. Reaching out in faith."

WORSHIP ATTENDENCE FOR SEPTEMBER 2026
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9/6 (40)

9/13 (52)

9/20 (45)

9/27 (49)

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE MONTH

Join us for Worship weekly in the **SANCTUARY** at 10:15 am.

19th Sunday after Pentecost ~ October 4 ~ Pastor Don Pletcher, presiding:

Isaiah 5:1-7, Philippians 3:4b-14, Matthew 21:33-46

In today's gospel reading, Jesus tells a vineyard parable, which serves as an image of Israel, the prophets' mission, and Christ's death. For Christians, the vineyard also speaks of God's love poured out in the blood of Christ, given to us for the forgiveness of sin. Grafted onto Christ the vine at baptism, we are nourished with wine and bread so that we may share Christ's sufferings and know the power of his resurrection.

20th Sunday after Pentecost ~ October 11 ~ Pastor Deb Monnin, presiding:

Isaiah 25:1-9, Philippians 4:1-9, Matthew 22:1-14

In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

21st Sunday after Pentecost ~ October 18 ~ Kent Miller, presiding:

Isaiah 45:1-7, 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10, Matthew 22:15-22

In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

Reformation Sunday ~ October 25 ~ Pastor Art Wilde, presiding:

Jeremiah 31:31-34, Romans 3:19-28, John 8:31-36

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

St. Matthews Lutheran Church will no longer be collecting monetary donations for the "Liberia Project." Pastor Samuel Payne has established and renamed the project (with the help of a newly assigned board) "The Bishop Roland J. Payne Liberian Mission". It is now its own 501(c)(3) nonprofit mission. All contributions to this mission should be addressed to the above name and sent to 1718 Whitehall Dr. Lima, Ohio 45805. Our Vanco QR code and account will no longer have a donation option for 'Aid to Liberia'. Please change your Vanco settings if you are currently automatically withdrawing funds for this account. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the office or Pastor Sam.
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Reformation Day



Unique to Lutherans, **Reformation Day**, October 31, celebrates Martin Luther posting the 95 theses on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenburg, Germany, in 1517. Most scholars recognize this event and date as the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. While Luther's intent was to begin public debate on the use of "Indulgences" – the purchase of forgiveness of sins – his actions initiated many church reforms that are still happening today.

In celebration of Reformation Sunday, please plan to wear red.

German Heritage Luncheon

Reformation **Sunday, October 25**, following worship, you are invited to join in fellowship around tradition German fare at our annual German Heritage Luncheon. Which will include veal schnitzel, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes, green beans, and apple crisp for dessert. Beginning shortly after the 10:15 worship service, the food will be prepared, the tables set, and the atmosphere joyful.

Join us in the New Life Center following worship, Sunday, October 25, for our German Heritage Luncheon.



SAFETY CITY TRICK OR TREAT

Saturday, October 24, 2026

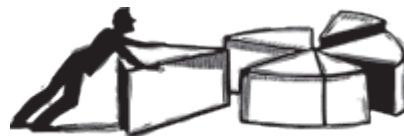
We will have a table set up for St. Luke's
Bring the kids and enjoy the fun!

Sunday, November 1 is All Saints' Sunday,



the day we remember, honor, and give thanks for those who have died in the past year. The names of those family members and friends of the congregation are included in the bulletin for that day; and during worship, we will toll the chimes in honor and remembrance.

If you have the name of someone you'd like to see on our list, please contact the church office by Monday, October 19th. Please bring any pictures to put in the gathering area on All Saints with their names of who they are. Thank you.



Submit Your Budget Requests

If anyone has any special request for 2027 budget items, please have them submitted by October 12th to present at the October 13th council meeting. Thanks!



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.

October 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
				1 10a WELCA
4 9:00a Choir 9:00a Adult Bible Classes 10:15a Liturgy of Holy Communion	5	6 6p Altar Guild 7:00p NA (NLC)	7	8
11 9:00a Choir 9:00a Adult Bible Classes 10:15a Liturgy of Holy Communion	12	13 6p Combined Council @ St. Luke's 7:00p NA (NLC)	14	15
18 9:00a Choir 9:00a Adult Bible Classes 10:15a Liturgy of Holy Communion	19 10a Financial Meeting 11a Staff Meeting 1p Worship Meeting	20 11a Mary/Martha 7:00p NA (NLC)	21	22
25 Reformation Sunday 9:00a Choir 9:00a Adult Bible Classes 10:15a Liturgy of Holy Communion 11:30a Heritage Luncheon	26 12-3p CUP	27 9a Herald 11a Mary/Martha 7:00p NA (NLC)	28	29 8-10:30a Rental



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.

SERVING

Altar Duties: Marcy Reeves

Friday	Saturday
2	3 7:30p NA (NLC)
9	10 7:30p NA (NLC)
16	17 7:30p NA (NLC)
23 11-1 Our Daily Bread	24 7:30p NA (NLC)
30	31 7:30p NA (NLC)

Oct 4 ~ 19 Sunday after Pentecost

Worship:
 Leader: Pastor Don Pletcher
 Organist: Sandy Miller
 Acolyte: Julianna Lewis
 Child Mess: Marcy Reeves
 Lector: Lonnie Collins
 Comm Ser: Lois Kennedy
 Jane Williams
 Ushers: Bob Williams
 Jack Williams

Oct 11 ~ 20 Sunday after Pentecost

Worship:
 Leader: Pastor Deb Monnin
 Organist: Sandy Miller
 Acolyte: Zoey Kennedy
 Child Mess: Noisy Offering
 Lector: Marcy Reeves
 Comm Ser: Mary Trueblood
 Linda Mann
 Ushers: Phil Trueblood
 Tyler Arheit

Oct 18 ~ 21 Sunday after Pentecost

Worship:
 Leader: Kent Miller
 Organist: Sandy Miller
 Acolyte: Addy Cardenas
 Child Mess: Kathy Luhn
 Lector: Dale Laukhuf
 Comm Ser: Jane Williams
 Marcia Laukhuf
 Ushers: Mike Gray
 Dick McCarty

Oct 25 ~ 18 Reformation Sunday

Worship:
 Leader: Pastor Art Wilde
 Organist: Sandy Miller
 Acolyte: Delaney Cardenas
 Child Mess: Dawn Arheit
 Lector: Dee Sherer
 Comm Ser: Lee Moritz
 Nancy Rudolph
 Ushers: Dee Sherer
 Bill Oleson



Altar Flowers

Oct 4 Beth Arheit McCarty
 Sandy Miller
Oct 11 Lee Moritz
 Nancy Rudolph
Oct 18 Lois Kennedy
 Lyn Mulcahy
Oct 25 open
 open

* NLC = New Life Center

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

Be strong! Be courageous! Do not be afraid. . . for the Lord, your God, will be with you. He will neither fail nor forsake you.
Deut. 31:6 TLB

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,
September 3rd, at 10:00 am in the Gathering Area

Mary/Martha Circle
meets on Tuesday, October 27th at 11 AM,
in the Pastor's Study

WHAT'S UP AT CUP



The C.U.P. food item for October is:
Toilet Paper

Thank you for all the support you give to CUP.

Our September Third Thursday was a very successful petting zoo event with 86 in attendance. Thanks to Rachael Lewis for the inspiration and helping communicate with our volunteers. Thank you to Dawn Arheit and Sara Julian for providing the animals, and for cleaning up afterwards. Thank you to our presenters, Julianna and Christian Lewis. Our animal stars were 2 goats, a chicken, a duck and 4 rabbits.



**SUNDAY MORNING
GENERAL OFFERING
FOR SEPTEMBER 2026**

9/6	\$4,900.75
9/13	\$1,660.00
9/20	\$927.00
9/27	\$5,321.80

All generously given
to make known
the Gospel of Jesus Christ



NOISY OFFERING

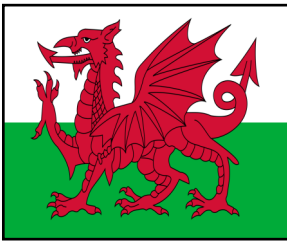
The **September** offering was **\$73.00** and went to the usual recipient of this offering Churches United Pantry (CUP). Your generosity helps our neighbors in need.

**A Glance at our 2026 Budget
as of 9/28/26**

Income: \$144,982.69
Expense: \$205,413.89
Net Income: -\$60,431.20

SPECIAL GIFTS / MEMORIALS:

In memory of **Marie Howe**, General Fund, by Jeff Brogee



On **October 4, 2026 Gomer Congregational Church** will be celebrating its **109th Annual Gymanfa Ganu** (Ga-mahn-fa Ga-nee) which is a Welsh festival of song. Participants sit by parts and sing some great old hymns in the Welsh tradition. The evening will begin at **7pm**. The Welsh Museum will be open 4-6:pm. For more information you can call 419-642-2681.

We hope you will be able to join us for this fun filled evening of music.

OUR DAILY BREAD
125 South Central 419-224-2086

Our Daily Bread serves hundreds of thousands of trays of food every year!

**The soup kitchen tray line needs six (6) volunteers from
St. Luke's to serve food on the 4th Friday of
every month from 11 am -1 pm.**

We will be serving on Friday, October 23, 2026

If you can help in the future or would like more information
contact our church office secretary or, Linda Mann: 419-303-9793.



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

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 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 Arheit



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

www.StLukesLima.org