

**THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF SAINT  
LUKE THE TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
AUGUST 31, 2025 AT 9:30 AM**

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Prelude "Preamble"

Louis Vierne

{The beginning of the prelude is a call to silence and personal preparation for the worship of God.}

Ringling of the Bells

♪ Processional Hymn ELW#836 "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

*Hymn to Joy*

Please stand as you are able and then turn to face the cross as the procession enters.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

"Today's Readings" Insert

Let us pray...

The congregation responds: **Amen**

Word

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The congregation is seated.

First Reading Proverbs 25:6-7a

"Today's Readings" Insert

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

♪ Psalm 112

"Today's Readings" Insert

Second Reading Hebrews 13:1-8 & 15-16

"Today's Readings" Insert

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

♪ Gospel Acclamation

ELW, page 151

***Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.***

Gospel

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

+ Saint Luke 14:1 & 7-14 +

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

"Today's Readings" Insert

The congregation is seated.

Sermon "Must Be in the Front Row"

Please stand as you are able.

♪ Hymn of the Day ELW#470 "Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether"

*Union Seminary*

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Gathering of the Gifts

Offering for Missions

**Please stand as you are able.**

The Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

**The congregation may kneel.**

**After each petition:** Let us pray to the Lord.

**Have mercy, O God.**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**The congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord in a way that is most comfortable to you.**

**After the greeting the congregation may be seated.**

The Holy Communion

Gathering of the Gifts

Offering for the Congregation

Offertory Solo "Welcome Table"

A Traditional Spiritual - Arr. Mark Hayes

**Please stand as you are able.**

♪ Offertory Hymn ELW#182 "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

***Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.***

***Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.***

***Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now.***

***Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.***

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray.

Gracious God, **in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Dialogue and Preface

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you...

...with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*♪ Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.*

The Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

The Congregation is seated.

♪ Agnus Dei

LBW, page 154

*Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.*

Communion

All baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's table. At the invitation of an usher, please proceed to communion at the front of the church by the center aisle where Pastor will hand you the bread. Then you may either drink from the chalice, commune by the ancient practice of intinction, dipping the wafer in the chalice before consuming, or take one of the individual glasses on the tray tables on either side. Please place the cup in the glass bowl before returning to your seats by the side aisle.

♪ Distribution Hymn ELW#522 "As We Gather at Your Table"

*In Babilone*

Sending

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Please stand as you are able.

Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray. Gracious God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Benediction

♪ Recessional Hymn ELW#796 "How Firm a Foundation"

*Foundation*

Prayer for Peace

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**

Postlude "Canon"

Louis Vierne



# Welcome to Saint Luke

Whether you are visiting for the first time, or are a longtime member, we are blessed to have you with us. If you are a guest and would like more information about Saint Luke please fill out one of the green welcome cards in the pew racks and return to an usher.

As a Reconciling in Christ Congregation, we welcome all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions based on our belief in a radically inclusive Jesus who loved all people regardless of gender, ethnicity, race, religion, economic, social status, or physical abilities. Saint Luke Ministries strives to be a place “where all are welcomed, period.”

For your convenience, there are individual sound enhancement devices. Please ask an usher. The wheelchair accessible entrance is located on Greenview Avenue and the wheelchair accessible lavatory is off the left side of the church.

A section for parents with very young children is located in the back of the church. Rocking chairs, floor cushions and children’s booster seats may be found in that area. Church Activity Bags with books and coloring materials for the very young are available from the ushers.



## **Introduction to the Theme of the Day**

Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God’s grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ’s banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.

### **ASSISTING IN OUR MINISTRY**

Dr. David C. Nelson, Interim Pastor  
Terry Duchow, Assisting Minister  
Don Mead, Cantor  
Maia Surace, Soloist

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**Those serving in the armed forces:** Nicholas Bakulinski, Jeremy Strohmayer, Ashley Bakulinski, Lucas Kratz, Nicky Relias, Megan Heesemann and Nathan Heesemann.

**Those who are ill:** Gerald Fraiser, Patricia Grunde, Christine Heck, Dennis Hadden, Joan Palumbo, Anthony Leonard, Joyce Grosse, Curtis Holland, Mark Van Scharrel, John Grosse, Achen Moreno, Barbara Lans, Evelyn Jones, Deborah Carruthers, Michael Strohmayer, Claudia Raack, Yvonne Aparicio, Lisa Healy, Judy Grabowski Hoyer, Henry Lee Spruell, Gianna Abate, Ann Pasquale, Dennis Grabowski, Anna Cygon, Julian Cygon and Jack Cygon.



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Please continue to pray for our school ministry. Members are welcome to visit or volunteer in the Academy. We would love to have church members volunteer in the lunch room and/or the library.

Please contact me if you are interested. Keep praying for the Academy. Blessings!  
Chris Comella, Principal: email: [ccomella@stlukechicago.org](mailto:ccomella@stlukechicago.org); voice: 773.472.3837;  
text: 773.814.6583.

Saint Luke Academy is the BEST early childhood center in Lakeview/Roscoe Village, and we have seats available. Do you have a 2-year-old in your life? Saint Luke Academy has opened registration for the first sessions of Book Bugs (9:00 - 9:45 am) and Time for Two's (10:45 am - 2:45 pm) for the 2025-2026 school year. Both classes meet twice per week on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Register for one day or both. Spread the word among your friends and neighbors.

Check us out! Contact us at: [Admissions@stlukechicago.org](mailto:Admissions@stlukechicago.org) or call the Academy Office at 773.472.3837

### **Church for Saint Luke Academy Resumes!**

Church for Saint Luke Academy meets on Wednesdays at 9:00 am. You are welcome to join us for the service. After service, feel free to join us in the lobby for coffee and chat.

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### **Saint Luke Academy Board Meeting**

Saint Luke Academy's Board Meeting is Tuesday, September 2, 2025, at 6:30 pm.

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### **Summer Support Presentation**

On Sunday, August 31, Linda Strohmayer will give a presentation on the Summer Support campaign.

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## **Summer Support**

The Stewardship/Evangelism Committee is pleased to give an update on the status of Summer Support, our summer initiative as part of the “God’s House, Your Home. Thrive in 2025” campaign.

Summer Support, a two-month concentrated campaign, is an opportunity to showcase our commitment to “God’s House, Your Home” by empowering us to directly contribute to the essential physical maintenance of Saint Luke. As reported during the August 3rd meeting of the Voters Assembly, the monies raised by Summer Support will be used to address the needed rehabilitation of the roof over the Greenview Avenue entrance and the exterior wooden doors around the Church.

We are thrilled to report that we have now reached 100% of our ambitious goal of raising \$25,000 in July and August. We have the full \$25,000 received and pledged! Your significant financial contributions made Summer Support a success!

However, we don’t want anyone to feel left out or prevent anyone from an “add-on” contribution.

With only a few hours remaining in our Summer Support campaign, we invite all members and friends of Saint Luke who have not yet made their Summer Support contribution, or who wish to “add-on”, to please do so before Midnight August 31st.

Your commitment to Summer Support - in any amount, in any time-table of giving, and provided in any method - will make a profound difference to the physical well-being of Saint Luke and therefore to the picture we present to the neighborhood and potential members of a thriving, vibrant Church.

To make your Summer Support contribution, please use the contribution form, which was mailed in July. These forms can also be obtained from the Ushers. Alternatively, you can use the available special QR code below or the Donate button on the Saint Luke website.

Thank you for your continued support and for your unwavering commitment to Saint Luke, “God’s House, Your Home”.



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## **Online Bible Classes**

Online Bible Class will meet Thursday, September 4th at 12:00 p.m. via Zoom. Join the group to discuss the lessons and Gospel for the Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost. Texts: Deuteronomy 30:15-20, Psalm 1:1-6; Philemon 1-21, Saint Luke 14:25-33.

The link for "Bible Class" can be found on the website at [stlukechicago.org](http://stlukechicago.org). Click on “Bible Class” or enter the following URL into your browser: <http://bit.ly/4muDFID>. See you Thursday!



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## **Sunday Morning Bible Studies Return September 7 at 8:30 am. in Memorial Hall.**

The focus for our fall study will be on the book "The Bible with and Without Jesus" in which esteemed Bible scholars and teachers Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Zvi Brettler take readers on a guided tour of the most popular Hebrew Bible passages quoted in the New Testament to show what the texts meant in their original contexts and then how Jews and Christians, over time, understood those same texts.

The book is available from Amazon for \$17.99 plus shipping and on Kindle for \$9.99. If you don't have Amazon Prime, the Church has purchased five copies for purchase.

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### **Food collection during September**

During the month of September we are collecting packed macaroni and cheese dinners and canned meat (i.e., spam).

These items will be distributed to families through the Common Pantry. Please leave your donation in the monthly collection barrel in the church lobby.

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### **Employment & Volunteer Opportunity**

#### **Live-Streaming Technician Needed - Saint Luke Church**

Saint Luke Church is looking for someone to live stream our Sunday worship service at 9:30 am. This person should have experience with technology, social media platforms, especially YouTube, Facebook, and audio-visual equipment. Hours are Sundays from 9:00 - 11:00 am., with additional hours as needed.

If you are interested or know someone interested in learning more about this position, please contact Carol Parnell ([cparnell@stlukechicago.org](mailto:cparnell@stlukechicago.org)) or call 773.472.3383.

#### **Working at Saint Luke Academy Might be for You!**

Saint Luke Academy is looking for volunteer librarians for the 2025-2026 school year. If you have a passion for books and find joy in reading to young children (ages 3-8) one day a week from 9:00 - 11:30 am., we need you! We need 2 or 3 volunteers, so we can rotate weeks.

For more details, contact Academy Principal Chris Comella, [ccomella@stlukechicago.org](mailto:ccomella@stlukechicago.org).

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### **Ways to Give to Saint Luke Church**

Saint Luke Church is appreciative of your offering gifts. Please utilize the QR Code below if you wish to donate to our ministry.





**God's House  
Your Home**



**Thrive in '25**

**Stewardship – Our Giving – July 2025**

*“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” 1 Peter 4:10*

You, as a member of Saint Luke Church, play a key role in sharing God’s love throughout our community. Thank you for all you do in support of this work.

Today’s report shows our giving results and expenses through the end of July 2025 and outlines the serious work we need to continue.

**It is important to note that the \$517,290 for Other Income is Saint Luke’s distribution from the sale of Greenview Place. These funds will be transferred to our reserves for future use and not immediately spent.**

Let us work together to expand our faith community and invite others to join us for worship, for Bible Study, and for fellowship and service opportunities.

All are welcome! Growing our attendance numbers will help our ministry thrive and deepen our relationship with our community.

	<b>July 2025</b>	<b>YTD 2025</b>
Congregation Giving	\$17,173	\$135,794
Expenses	\$42,041	\$260,524
<b>Difference</b>	<b>-\$24,868</b>	<b>-\$124,730</b>
<i>Other Church Income</i>		
Building Use	\$0	\$14,252
Memorials and Bequests	\$0	\$67,353
Other Income	\$0	\$220
Summer Support	\$11,678	\$19,378
Greenview Place	\$0	\$517,290
<b>Other Church Income Subtotal</b>	<b>\$11,678</b>	<b>\$618,493</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>-\$13,190</b>	<b>\$493,763</b>