



World Communion Sunday

October 4th, 2026
11:15 am • Sanctuary & Online

CHURCH OFFICE

4444 5th Avenue North • St. Petersburg, FL 33713
(727) 321-1335 • st-lukesumc.com

Tuesday & Thursday 9 am – 12:30 pm
The pastors are available by appointment

Your Pastoral Team

Rev. Erick Ashley – erick@spconnection.org
Rev. Tracie Ashley – tracie@spconnection.org
Rev. Sue Garcia – sue@spconnection.org

Administrative Assistant – Patti Redmond-Marshall – patti@spconnection.org
Director of Music – Bruce Mook | AV Tech – Izz Prange

Bishop of the Florida Annual Conference – Rev. Tom Berlin
Gulf Central District Superintendent – Rev. Emily Hotho

WELCOME

Welcome to St. Luke's United Methodist Church. Every week, we look forward to this time to gather as a community. We are glad YOU are here today with us!

You can use this bulletin to help lead through worship and throughout the week. We truly hope you enjoy your time here this morning and hope you return soon.

Some logistics you may find helpful:

- Worship runs about an hour and fifteen minutes, sometimes a bit shorter & sometimes a bit longer.
- Grab a nametag from the table in the Narthex. If you are a guest, our Hospitality Team will be happy to assist you.
- The restrooms are straight out the sanctuary doors and down the hall.
- Prayer Cards are available in the pew in front of you and in the narthex. Please place your prayer card in the offering plate when it comes around toward the end of the service. It is our joy and privilege to be praying with and for you.
- We have several ways you can give financially to support St. Luke's mission.
 1. Place cash/check in the offering plate or mail to the church.
 2. Text any amount to (833) 959-1469.
 3. Visit st-lukesumc.com/give.
 4. Use your bank's bill payer system.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

UMH: United Methodist Hymnal • TFWS: The Faith We Sing

**Please stand as you are able*

WE GATHER

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship*

Hymn* | *Christ for the World We Sing* – UMH 568

WE PROCLAIM

Affirmation of Faith* | *A Statement of Faith of The Korean Methodist Church* - UMH 884

Gloria Patri* | *Glory Be To The Father* – UMH 70

Invitation, Confession, & Pardon – UMH 12

Passing of the Peace*

Hymn* | *One Bread, One Body* – UMH 620

Prayer For Illumination

Scripture Reading | *1 Corinthians 10:16-17* NRSV

Choral Response | *He Is Lord* – UMH 177

Message | *World Communion Sunday* – Rev. Erick Ashley

WE RESPOND

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Music

Doxology* | *Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow* – UMH 95

Offertory Prayer*

WE GO OUT

Hymn* | *Let Us Break Bread Together* – UMH 618 (vs 1-3)

Benediction*

WHAT’S HAPPENING?

Pumpkin Unloading Days – We Need YOU at Clearview! Our pumpkin deliveries are coming, and we need as many volunteers as possible to help unload the trucks and fill the Patch!

Saturday, October 10 - 8 am
Saturday, October 17 - 8 am

Bring a friend, wear comfortable clothes, and come ready to serve. There’s a job for every age and ability, and many hands really do make light work! Thank you for helping make Clearview’s Pumpkin Patch a success!

Is God Calling You to Lead? We’re beginning to identify leaders for 2027. If you’d like to become more involved in our church’s leadership and would like to be considered, please let one of the pastors know as we prayerfully discern together.

Serve Behind the Scenes—Join the AV-Tech Team! You don’t have to be a tech expert to make a difference on Sunday mornings! Help with sound, slides, or livestreaming as part of our AV-Tech SERVE Team. We’ll provide the training, and it’s easier than you might think. Sign up today or talk with one of the pastors to learn more.

St. Luke’s Leadership Meeting - St. Luke’s Leadership Team will gather on Thursday, October 8 at 6:30 pm. Please plan to join us as we discuss the life, ministry, and future of St. Luke’s and continue discerning where God is leading us together.

United Women in Faith - All women are invited to join United Women in Faith for our meeting on Tuesday, October 13 at 10 am. Stay for Bible Study at 11 am, as well. Come enjoy a time of fellowship, faith, and connection as we gather together. We’d love to have you join us!

Jesus Is Lord Ends—but GROWing Continues! As our Jesus Is Lord GROW Group comes to an end, the opportunity to grow together continues! Join the Grace Group on Tuesdays at 5:30 pm for fellowship, conversation, and continued growth in faith. Everyone is welcome—come GROW with us!

SOUTH PINELLAS CONNECTION UPCOMING DATES

Oct 9	Pumpkin Patch Decorating	5:30-8:30 pm	CV
Oct 10	Pumpkin Unloading & Opening Day	8 am	CV
Oct 10	Lakewood Leadership Team Meeting	10 am	LW
Oct 13	UWIF Friendship Circle	10 am	SL
Oct 13	Women’s Bible Study	11 am	SL
Oct 17	Yard Sale Market	9 am-12pm	FG

KEY

Clearview (CV)	First Gulfport (FG)	Lakewood (LW)	St. Luke's (SL)
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STEWARDSHIP OF PRESENCE & GIFTS

Week of Sept 27		2026 Year To Date	
Worship	27	Worship (avg)	34
Online Worship	16	Online (avg)	18
Giving Received	\$2,380.00	Giving Received	\$116,091.53
Giving Needed	\$3,055.78	Giving Needed	\$119,175.42
Surplus/Loss	-\$675.78	Surplus/Loss	-\$3,083.89

ST. LUKE'S WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 (World Communion Sunday)

- **ACA**, 9 am – Joy Room
- **Jesus is Lord Grow Group**, 10 am – Library
- **St. Luke’s Worship**, 11:15 am – Sanctuary & Online
- **OA**, 5:30 pm – Joy Room

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5

- **Chair Volleyball,**, 1 pm – Wesley Hall
- **Karate/Self Defense**, 5 pm – 2nd floor Rec Room
- **AA**, 8 pm – Wesley Hall

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

- **Office Open**, 9 am – 12:30 pm
- **Jesus is Lord Grow Group**, 5:30 pm – Joy Room
- **ACA**, 6:30 pm – Nursery Room

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

- **Thrift Store**, 9 am – 1 pm - Thrift Store
- **Al-Anon**, 10:30 am – Wesley Hall
- **ACA Study Group**, 6:30 pm – Nursery Room

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

- **Thrift Store**, 9 am – 1 pm - Thrift Store
- **Al-Anon Begins**, 12 pm - Wesley Hall
- **Al-Anon**, 1 pm – Wesley Hall
- **Karate/Self Defense**, 5 pm – 2nd floor Rec Room
- **Leadership Board Meeting**, 6:30 pm – Joy room
- **AA**, 7:30 pm – Wesley Hall

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9

- **Chair Volleyball**, 1 pm – Wesley Hall
- **Food Pantry**, 5 pm – Parking Lot
- **Children/Youth**, 5:30 pm – 2nd Floor Rec Room
- **ACA Study Group**, 5:30 – Nursery Room
- **ACA**, 6:45 pm - Nursery Room

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10

- **ACA**, 9 am - Nursery Room
- **Thrift Store Open**, 9 am – 1 pm - Thrift store
- **ACA**, 11 am – Nursery Room
- **Chair Volleyball**, 1 pm – Wesley Hall

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

- **ACA**, 9 am – Joy Room
- **Jesus is Lord Grow Group**, 10 am – Library
- **St. Luke’s Worship**, 11:15 am – Sanctuary & Online
- **OA**, 5:30 pm – Joy Room

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER LIST

COMPLETE A PRAYER CARD FROM THE PEW AND PLACE IT IN THE OFFERING PLATE

St. Luke's: Pastor Sue's sister, Lea, who had hip surgery on Thursday

St. Luke's Ongoing: Gary Antonellis, Bev, Lisa, Trent, Mike, LouAnn, Jacob & Jess Becker, Christine Brockway, Fred Bunnell, Jr., Melissa Celurale, Jeannine Colbert, Judith Fain, Cheryl Fennell, Cliff Flowers, Larry Frye, Marian Galloway, Nina Hartley, Eric Harvey, Trudy James, The Leonard Family, Geraldine Parsons, Buck & Sunny Roberts, Harriett Swartzmiller, Joelle Wells, Justin Wells, Annalise, Audrey, Ellie

Clearview: Please pray for the family and friends of Dale as they mourn their loss; Please keep Susie in your prayers, she is facing an unexpected and serious health condition and waiting for answers and a diagnosis. (Debbie Deacon); **From the Community Dinner:** Pray for our Country, the good people of Clearview UMC who devote themselves to church and make this dinner possible. (Norm)

Clearview Ongoing: Pamela Arnold, Cassie Berg, Eileen Clark, Carol Comerford, Kathy Davis, Stephen Davis, Trevor Davis, Tim Deacon, Genevieve DeHoog, John Goude, Theresa Goude, Amy Gordon, Mary Grauv, Carl Gunn, Robert "Skip" Hanshe, Ruth Hockersmith, Rycky Holliman, DeeDee Hornby, Letha & Marc Jones, Ruth Katzen, Nelson Kimber, Charlotte Klotzbach, Ian Kolaczyk, Carolyn McGovern, Sabrina Mull, Kirstin Owens, Jim Patterson, Scott Pierce, Tiffany R, Tammi Radcliff, Donna Robertson, George Roth, Sr., Linda Stanley, Anver Suleman, Logan Sullivan, Crystal, Eldridge Jr, Hilary, Kelly, Lydi, Max, Blayne, Amber, George, Rollie, Steve & Alba, Diana, Theresa & Scott, Mamaw, Aunt Teresa

Gulfport: No requests received

Gulfport Ongoing: Jean Blackman, Wendy Christy's son, Alice Johnson, Laura Magill, Valerie Schmidt, Allison (Cindy & Per Lee's granddaughter), Debbie S, George (Jack Wamhoff's son), Family of Dean Wilde, Mary & Bill; Pam & Jeff, Willie

Lakewood: Aunt Betz (Myra Hoffman) in Pennsylvania, a scan just discovered a cyst on her bladder and also on both lungs (Kandy Szilage)

Lakewood Ongoing: Joan and family, Otha Hudson (Josephine's husband), The family of JoAnn & Richard Knight, Pastor Sue's Aunt Sharon, Rose and Richard Scantlebury

South Pinellas Active-Duty Military: Matthew Burdewick, Seth Crist, Will Dudley, Casey Linde-Powers

THIS WEEK'S "AT HOME" DEVOTIONAL

What Are You Doing With What You Have? — Matthew 25:14–30

GATHERING

Light a candle and place a cup nearby to remember that God entrusts gifts to us and invites us to use them with gratitude.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Generous God, thank you for the time, abilities, relationships, and resources you have placed in our care. When fear tells us to hide what we have, remind us that your grace is sufficient. Help us recognize our gifts, use them wisely, and offer them for your glory and our neighbors’ good. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION - Take a few moments to check in with one another.

Highs & Lows

- What is one thing that brought you joy this week?
- What is one gift or opportunity you were grateful to receive this week?

THINKING ABOUT THE UPCOMING WEEK’S SCRIPTURE

In Jesus’ parable, servants receive different amounts, but each is responsible for what has been entrusted to them. One servant buries his gift in fear. Our own limitations need not prevent faithful stewardship: God’s treasure can be carried in fragile people.

- What has God placed in your care beyond money?
- How can fear or comparison keep us from using our gifts?
- Who has made a meaningful difference with limited resources?
- What would gratitude look like in the way you use one gift this week?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - As you read this week, ask: How can we honor God by faithfully using what we already have?

DAY	READING	THEME
Sunday	1 Corinthians 10:16–17	<i>One Bread and One Body</i>
Monday	Psalms 23:1–6	<i>My Cup Overflows</i>
Tuesday	2 Kings 4:1–7	<i>Begin with What You Have</i>
Wednesday	John 6:1–14	<i>Small Gifts in Jesus’ Hands</i>
Thursday	2 Corinthians 4:7–12	<i>Treasure in Clay Jars</i>
Friday	1 Peter 4:8–11	<i>Serve with Your Gifts</i>
Saturday	Romans 12:3–8	<i>Different Gifts and One Grace</i>
Sunday	Matthew 25:14–30	<i>Faithful with What Is Entrusted</i>

If your household includes children, feel free to use a children’s Bible or summarize the readings in simple language.

DEVOTIONAL

Thankful for the Cup: “my cup overflows.” — Psalm 23:5 (NRSV)

An overflowing cup begins with noticing what is already there. We may focus on what we lack, but God has entrusted something to each of us: time, experience, skills, friendships, resources, or the ability to listen and care. Stewardship begins with gratitude for these gifts.

In Matthew 25, the servants do not receive identical amounts. A talent in this story is a large sum of money, not simply a personal ability. Yet the parable also invites us to consider everything placed in our care. The faithful servants act with what they receive. The fearful servant buries it.

Fear can make us bury our gifts, too. We wait until we feel more capable, less wounded, or better supplied. Paul reminds us that God’s treasure is held in clay jars. Fragility does not disqualify us; it makes clear that the power belongs to God.

The widow in 2 Kings begins with a little oil. In John 6, a boy has five loaves and two fish. These stories do not promise that every offering will make us wealthy. They reveal God’s ability to work through what seems insufficient and invite us to offer what we have.

The abundance mindset is not pretending we have no limits. It is trusting that limits need not close our hands. We can steward wisely, honor healthy boundaries, and still take a faithful step toward generosity.

Stewardship is the highest form of gratitude because it turns thankfulness into action. What gift have you been hiding? Put it to use this week—not to prove your worth, but to bless someone with what God has already entrusted to you.

PRAY TOGETHER

Invite each person to name one gift they see in someone else and one gift they want to use more faithfully. Then pray together:

Loving God, thank you for your treasure within our ordinary lives. Free us from comparison and fear. Show us what we have, help us care for it wisely, and give us courage to put it to use. May our gratitude become service and our gifts bring blessing to others. Amen.

MEALTIME PRAYER

Generous God, thank you for this food and for all you entrust to us. Nourish our bodies and teach us to share our gifts with grateful hearts. Amen.

SERVICE CHALLENGE - This is one way we share God’s love with the world.

Make a simple inventory of your time, skills, relationships, and resources. Choose one gift and use it to serve someone this week. Consider completing a Spiritual Gifts Assessment available on the website, and discuss the results with a pastor.

CLOSING & BLESSING

Extinguish your candle as a reminder that God’s treasure continues to shine through ordinary, imperfect people.

With permission, make the sign of the cross on one another’s hands or foreheads and say: **“Receive God’s gifts with gratitude. Use what you have with courage. Let your life become a blessing.”**