



August 9th, 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 Marshall – patti@spconnection.org
Director of Music – Bruce Mook | Streaming Tech – Izz Prange

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

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*

Come, let us listen for the voice of God.

We come with open hearts and willing spirits.

God's Word teaches us to be quick to listen,
slow to speak, and slow to become angry.

Shape our hearts, O Lord, that our words may reflect your grace.

Let every word we speak build others up in love.

We worship the One whose Word brings life. Amen!

Hymn* | *Forth In Thy Name, O Lord* – UMH 438

WE PROCLAIM

Affirmation of Faith* | *The Apostles' Creed* – UMH 881

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

Pastoral Prayer

Passing of the Peace*

Hymn* | *Take My Life And Let It Be* – UMH 399

Prayer For Illumination

**Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that, as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed,
we may hear with anticipation and joy what you have for us today. Amen.**

Scripture Reading | *James 1:19–21 (NIV Reader's Version)*

Choral Response | *Spirit Of The Living God* – UMH 393

Spirit of the living God, fall a-fresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, fall a-fresh on me.

Melt me, mold me, use me.

Spirit of the living God, fall a-fresh on me.

Message | *THINK Before You Speak* – Rev. Sue Garcia

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* | *Amazing Grace* – UMH 378 (alternate lyrics)

Verse 1

O Christ, now guide the words we speak,
With wisdom from above;
May every sentence, great or small,
Reflect your truth and love.

Verse 2

O guard our tongues, O Holy One,
From anger, pride, and shame;
Let truth and kindness fill our speech
To glorify your name.

Verse 3

Speak through our hearts, O Living Christ,
Your holy Word impart;
Then let our voices echo back
The love within your heart.

Benediction*

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Thank You, Volunteers - A heartfelt thank you to everyone who gave their time and energy during our recent Church Workday. Your hard work has helped prepare our campus to warmly welcome Bishop Tom Berlin and all who will join us for our combined worship service. We are grateful for your servant hearts and for the many ways you help make our church a place of hospitality and excellence!

United Women in Faith – All women are invited to join us for the next United Women in Faith gathering on Tuesday, August 11. The meeting begins at 10 am, followed by Bible Study at 11 am. Come enjoy fellowship, grow in your faith, and connect with other women. We'd love to have you with us!

Leadership Board Meeting – The next Leadership Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 13, at 6:30 pm. Board members are encouraged to attend as we continue planning and making important decisions for the life and ministry of our church.

South Pinellas Connection Combined Worship Celebration – Join us on Sunday, August 16, at 11:15 am at St. Luke's United Methodist Church for a special combined worship service with all the churches of the South Pinellas Connection.

We are honored to welcome Bishop Tom Berlin, who will launch our new worship series, *Jesus Is Lord*, and preach from his new book. Bring your copy if you'd like it signed after the service!

Following worship, stay for a Connection-wide Potluck Dinner. St. Luke's will provide the drinks and paper goods; just bring a favorite dish to share.

Join a GROW Group - Continue the journey by participating in one of our Jesus Is Lord GROW Groups. Together we'll explore Bishop Berlin's book through scripture, conversation, and fellowship. Choose the group that works best for you:

- Clearview: Sundays at 10:45 am or Mondays at 6:45 pm
- First Gulfport: Sundays at 10 am or Mondays at 6:30 pm
- St. Luke's: Sundays at 10 am or Tuesdays at 6:30 pm
- Lakewood: Tuesdays at 10:30 am

Come grow in faith, build relationships, and deepen your walk with Christ.

Bring a Dish for the Potluck Lunch - Join us after worship for a Connection-wide Potluck Lunch! Bring your favorite dish to share as we enjoy great food and fellowship with friends from across our churches. St. Luke's will provide the drinks and paper goods. We hope you'll stay and be part of this special time together! Look for St Luke’s Greeters for where to drop off your food.

Sing in the Connection Choir - Everyone is welcome to be part of the special choir for Bishop Berlin's visit! Rehearsals will be held in the St. Luke's sanctuary. Please attend as many rehearsals as you are able as we prepare to make a joyful noise together.

- Tuesday, August 11 – 6:30 pm
- Wednesday, August 12 – 4:30 pm
- Sunday, August 16 – 10:30 am

Childcare Available – Childcare will be available during the Combined Worship Service. The nursery opens at 11 am for infants through age 4 and is available throughout the service. Children in Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to attend the beginning of worship before being dismissed to Children's Church during the service.

The Bishop's Book – *Jesus Is Lord* is available for \$18. Payment may be made by cash, check (payable to the church; please write "Book" in the memo line), or online (payment details coming soon). A Kindle edition is also available online at a lower cost.

Bishop Tom Berlin will be available to sign books following our Combined Worship Service on August 16, so be sure to bring your copy!

We don't want the cost of the book to keep anyone from participating in the study. If you need assistance purchasing a copy, please speak with one of the pastors. We look forward to GROWing together!

ST. LUKE'S WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9 – Back To School Sunday

- **First Unity Devotional Service**, 8:30 am – Wesley Hall
- **ACA**, 9 am – Joy Room
- **Bible Discussion**, 10 am – Library

- **First Unity Celebration Service**, 11 am – Wesley Hall
- **St. Luke's Worship**, 11:15 am – Sanctuary & Online
- **OA**, 5:30 pm – Joy Room

MONDAY, AUGUST 10

- **Chair Volleyball**, 3 pm – Wesley Hall
- **Karate/Self Defense**, 5 pm – 2nd floor Rec Room
- **AA**, 8 pm – Wesley Hall

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11

- **Office Open**, 9 am – 12:30 pm
- **UWIF Friendship Circle**, 10am – Joy Room
- **Women's Bible Study**, 11am – Joy Room
- **SPC Choir Practice**, 6:30 pm – Sanctuary
- **ACA**, 6:30 pm – Nursery Room

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12

- **Thrift Store**, 9 am – 1 pm - Thrift Store
- **Al-Anon**, 10:30 am – Wesley Hall
- **SPC Choir Practice**, 4:30 pm – Sanctuary
- **First Unity Meditation**, 6 pm – Wesley Hall
- **First Unity Music Rehearsal**, 7 pm – Wesley Hall
- **ACA Study Group**, 6:30 pm – Nursery Room

THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

- **Thrift Store**, 9 am – 1 pm - Thrift Store
- **Al-Anon Begin**, 12 pm - Wesley Hall
- **Al-Anon**, 1 pm – Wesley Hall
- **Karate/Self Defense**, 5 pm – 2nd floor Rec Room
- **AA**, 7:30 pm – Wesley Hall

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15

- **ACA**, 9 am - Nursery Room
- **Thrift Store Open**, 10 am – 2 pm - Thrift store
- **ACA**, 11 am – Nursery Room

SUNDAY, AUGUST 16 – Bishop Berlin

- **First Unity Worship**, 10 am – Wesley Hall
- **ACA**, 9 am – Joy Room
- **Bible Discussion**, 10 am – Library
- **SP Connection Combined Worship**, 11:15 am – Sanctuary & Online
- **Potluck Luncheon**, 12:15ish – Wesley Hall
- **OA**, 5:30 pm – Joy Room

SOUTH PINELLAS CONNECTION UPCOMING DATES

Aug 9	Back-To-School-Sunday	9:30 & 11:15	ALL
Aug 11, 12	Connection Choir Rehearsals (see announcement above)	Varies	SL
Aug 16	Combined Worship at St. Luke's Bishop Tom Berlin Preaching	11:15 am	SL
Week of Aug 23	New <i>Jesus is Lord</i> Study Groups Begin (All Church Campuses & Online)	See Above	ALL

KEY

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

Week of Aug 2

Worship	35
Online Worship	22
Giving Received	\$2,769.72
Giving Needed	\$3,055.78
Surplus/Loss	-\$286.06

2026 Year To Date

Worship (avg)	35
Online (avg)	17
Giving Received	\$93,514.69
Giving Needed	\$94,729.18
Surplus/Loss	-\$1,214.49

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER LIST

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

St. Luke’s: Prayers for Larry Frye, he is undergoing an abdominal procedure on Wednesday morning.

St. Luke's Ongoing: Annalise, Bev Becker, Charlie BeVille, Madison Brown, Fred Bunnell, Jr., Lisa Duffy, Cheryl Fennell, Larry Frye, Eric Harvey, Trudy James, The Lieber family, The Leonard Family, Geraldine Parsons, Buck & Sunny Roberts, Harriett Swartzmiller, Justin Wells, Jennifer, JJ

Clearview: Ruth Katzen is having severe pain in her back, hip, & knee on her left side. She had an MRI last Tuesday, and we will find out this Wednesday; please pray that they can do something to help her (Andy Cantara); Matt Burdewick is being deployed this week (Karen & Jim Burdewick); my friend Diana, her mom was diagnosed with kidney cancer (Shelly C.)

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, Robert “Skip” Hanshe, Ruth Hockersmith, DeeDee Hornby, Marc Jones, Nelson Kimber, Charlotte Klotzbach, Ian Kolaczyk, Carolyn McGovern, Sabrina Mull, Kristie Owens, Jim Patterson, Scott Pierce, Tammi Radcliff, George Roth, Sr., Logan Sullivan, Crystal, Hilary, Kelly, Lydi, Max, Blayne, Amber, George, Steve & Alba

Gulfport: No requests this week

Ongoing: Alice Johnson, Allison (Cindy & Per Lee’s granddaughter), Willie

Lakewood: No requests this week

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

THIS WEEK'S "AT HOME" DEVOTIONAL

Jesus Is Lord: Colossians 2:6–7

GATHERING

Light a candle to remind yourselves that Jesus is present and that his loving lordship reaches every part of our lives.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Lord, you call us beyond words into a life shaped by your love. Bring our beliefs and our actions into harmony. Guide our relationships, habits, priorities, and values so that others may recognize your grace in us. Teach us to depend on you, submit to your way, and discover the joy and purpose of life under your lordship. 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?
- Where do you need a fresh start?

THINKING ABOUT THE UPCOMING WEEK’S SCRIPTURE

So, live in Christ Jesus the Lord in the same way as you received him. — Colossians 2:6 (CEB)

The earliest Christians confessed three life-changing words: Jesus is Lord. This was more than a statement of belief. It meant trusting Jesus enough to let his teaching reshape the way they lived.

- What do you think it means to call Jesus ‘Lord’?
- Where is it easiest for your beliefs and actions to agree?
- What part of your life is hardest to place under Christ’s direction?
- How might a church or community change when Jesus is truly Lord?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - As you read this week, ask: **What changes when Jesus is truly Lord of our lives?**

DAY	READING	THEME
Sunday	James 1:19–21	<i>Faith That Shapes Our Conduct</i>
Monday	Exodus 3:13–15	<i>The Name of the Lord</i>
Tuesday	Psalms 24	<i>The Lord of All Creation</i>
Wednesday	Luke 6:43–49	<i>Lordship and Obedience</i>
Thursday	Mark 8:27–35	<i>Who Do You Say Jesus Is?</i>
Friday	Romans 10:9–13	<i>Confess Jesus as Lord</i>
Saturday	Philippians 2:5–11	<i>Every Tongue Will Confess</i>
Sunday	Colossians 2:6–7	<i>Live in Christ the Lord</i>

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

DEVOTIONAL

When the first Christians named what they believed, they offered three words: Jesus is Lord. Those words were simple, but they changed everything.

The disciples had already walked beside Jesus. They heard his teaching and witnessed his miracles, yet they were often confused, reactive, and afraid. After the resurrection, they understood that Jesus was more than a teacher or companion. He was Lord. As they surrendered themselves to him, fearful disciples became courageous witnesses.

Calling Jesus ‘Lord’ means more than being grateful that he saves us. It means trusting him to lead us. A lord is not someone whose advice we consider only when it is convenient. To confess Jesus as Lord is to let his way shape our relationships, habits, priorities, values, words, and decisions.

Tom Berlin suggests that two revealing questions about a life are: 1) What did this person believe? 2) How did this person live? Christian discipleship becomes compelling when those answers belong together—when our lives flow from the faith we profess.

This does not mean we become perfect overnight. Transformation grows as we remain rooted in Christ, depend on his grace, practice his teaching, and allow the Holy Spirit to direct us. Jesus is a loving Lord who welcomes prodigals home, forgives sin, and leads us toward a life richer than the one we could build alone.

What would happen if, wherever we went, we asked what it means for Jesus to be Lord in that moment? Our choices might change. Our relationships might heal. Our churches might become agents of grace, justice, and community transformation. When Jesus is truly Lord, belief becomes practice—and life is transformed.

PRAY TOGETHER

Invite each person to name one area of life they want to place more fully under Christ’s direction. Then pray together:

Lord, we confess that you are our Savior and our Lord. Forgive us when our actions do not reflect what we say we believe. Root us deeply in your love and shape us into people whose relationships, habits, priorities, and values look like yours. Transform our lives, our church, and our community through your grace. Amen.

MEALTIME PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank you for this food and for everyone gathered here. May our life together reflect your love and may all we do honor you as Lord. Amen.

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

At the beginning of each day this week, pray: ‘Jesus, be Lord of my life today.’

Choose one relationship, habit, priority, or decision and ask how it might look different if it were fully shaped by Christ. Then take one faithful step.

CLOSING & BLESSING

Extinguish your candle as a reminder that Christ’s light continues to guide those who live under his loving lordship.

With permission, make the sign of the cross on one another’s hands or foreheads and say: **‘Jesus is Lord. Root your life in him, follow his way, and let his love transform you.’**