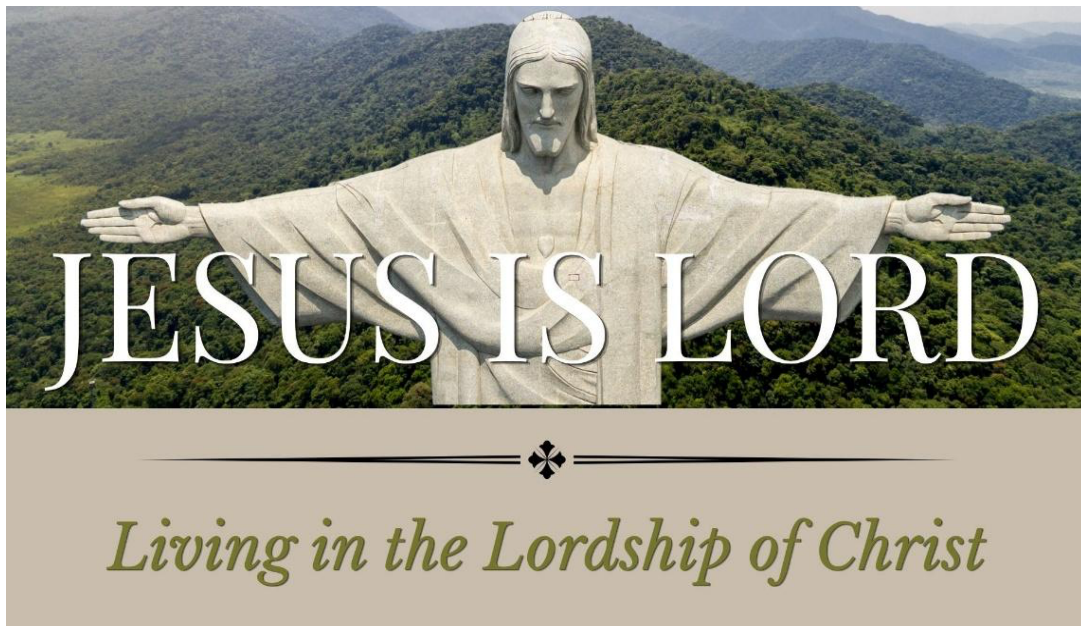




August 30th, 2026
11:15 am • Sanctuary & Online

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*

God is love, and God's love has been revealed to us in Jesus Christ.

We love because God first loved us.

Jesus calls us to love one another as he has loved us.

May his love shape our hearts and guide our lives

Come, let us open ourselves again to the love of God:

And may that love flow through us into the world.

Come, let us worship the Lord of Love! Amen!

Hymn* | *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*– UMH 384

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* | *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* – UMH 298

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 | *1 John 4:7-14* CEB

Choral Response | *He Is Lord* – UMH 177

Message | *Lord Of Love* – 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* | *Lord, I Want To Be A Christian* – UMH 402

Benediction*

Flowers have been placed on the altar by Carolyn Rogers in Memory of her granddaughter Ashley, sister Jean, brother Bud and In Honor of her great-granddaughter Dejah's birthday.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Inviting Can Be Simple! Inviting someone to church doesn't have to feel awkward. Simply say, "Would you like to come with me?" Invite a friend to worship, dinner, a GROW Group, or another church event; and offer to meet them or save them a seat.

Here are a few more ideas:

- "I really enjoy my church. Would you like to come with me Sunday? I'll save you a seat."
- "I'm doing this group at church that's been really interesting. You'd be welcome to come with me."
- "My church is doing something this weekend that I think you'd really enjoy. Want to go together?"
- "Have you found a church yet? You're always welcome to come with me."
- "Our church has been a really supportive community for me. If you ever want to come, I'd be glad to go with you."
- "We've got a really welcoming group of people at our church. I think you'd fit right in."
- "What are you doing Sunday morning? Come to church with me, and we can grab lunch afterward."
- "I know church may or may not be your thing, but you're always welcome to come with me sometime."

It's Not Too Late to Join a GROW Group! Come GROW in faith together as we study Bishop Tom Berlin's *Jesus Is Lord*. Jump in this week—we'd love to have you!

- **Clearview:** Sun. 10:45 am | Mon. 6:45 pm
- **First Gulfport:** Sun. 10 am | Mon. 6:30 pm
- **St. Luke's:** Sun. 10 am | Tues. 5:30 pm
- **Lakewood:** Tues. 10:30 am

Qi-Gong Meditative Movement Class - All are invited to a Qi Gong Meditative Movement Class, led by Allarah LaVelle, on Saturdays at 4:30 pm in Wesley Hall. Come experience gentle, meditative movement designed to encourage relaxation and well-being. This class is a ministry of Unity Church and is offered by donation. All are welcome!

Plant-Based Potluck - Come enjoy food and community at a new Plant-Based Potluck, beginning Sunday, August 30, from 5:30–7:30 pm! Bring a dish to share, meet new people, and discover what it means to eat a plant-based diet. Use the QR code on the flyer to sign up in the Narthex, or simply show up. All are welcome.

Calling All Men - Join us for the United Methodist Men's Breakfast on **Saturday, Sep 5, at 8 am!** Come enjoy a delicious breakfast, good conversation, and great fellowship. Everyone is welcome; come hungry and bring a friend!

ST. LUKE'S WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

- **First Unity Devotional Service**, 8:30 am – Wesley Hall
- **ACA**, 9 am – Joy Room
- **Jesus is Lord Grow Group**, 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
- **Plant Based Potluck Dinner**, 5:30-7:30 – Wesley Hall

MONDAY, AUGUST 31

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

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

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

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

- **Thrift Store**, 9 am – 1 pm - Thrift Store
- **Al-Anon Begins**, 12 pm - Wesley Hall
- **Al-Anon**, 1 pm – Wesley Hall
- **Feed The Hungry**, 4:30 pm - Kitchen
- **Karate/Self Defense**, 5 pm – 2nd floor Rec Room
- **Girl Scouts**, 6:30 0m, Girl Scout Room
- **AA**, 7:30 pm – Wesley Hall

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

- **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, SEPTEMBER 5

- **UMM Breakfast**, 8 am – Wesley Hall
- **ACA**, 9 am - Nursery Room
- **Thrift Store Open**, 10 am – 2 pm - Thrift store
- **ACA**, 11 am – Nursery Room
- **Chair Volleyball**, 1 pm – Wesley Hall
- **Qi-Chong**, 4:30 pm – Wesley Hall

STEWARDSHIP OF PRESENCE & GIFTS

Week of Aug 23		2026 Year To Date	
Worship	32	Worship (avg)	35
Online Worship	30	Online (avg)	17
Giving Received	\$2,623.11	Giving Received	\$105,509.03
Giving Needed	\$3,055.78	Giving Needed	\$103,896.52
Surplus/Loss	-\$432.67	Surplus/Loss	\$1,612.51

SOUTH PINELLAS CONNECTION UPCOMING DATES

Aug 30	5 th Sunday Offering for Residing Hope	11:15 am	ALL
Sept 1	Virtual Fall Laity Gathering via ZOOM	10 am	ALL
Sept 5	United Methodist Men's Breakfast	8 am	SL
Sept 8	United Women in Faith Meeting & Study	10 am	SL
Sept 13	Campus Ministry Sunday	-	ALL
Sept 14-15	Rooted: Training for Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Warren Willis Camp & Conference Center	-	ALL
Sept 16	United Women in Faith Luncheon	12 pm	FG

KEY

Clearview (CV)	First Gulfport (FG)	Lakewood (LW)	St. Luke's (SL)
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THIS WEEK'S PRAYER LIST

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

St. Luke’s: Pastor Erick; Cliff Flowers to find a home

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

Clearview: My companion, Carl Gunn, has been diagnosed with Dementia (Deborah Deacon), A lady from Cambodia, that I work with, her family is homeless, pray that the family of six find a home soon (Dawn Gibson); Anver Suleman, ongoing health issues (Cassie Berg); My friend Theresa and her husband Scott, as they navigate this difficult time after his father passed (Ericka Pierce)

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, Ruth Katzen, Nelson Kimber, Charlotte Klotzbach, Ian Kolaczyk, Carolyn McGovern, Sabrina Mull, Kirstin Owens, Jim Patterson, Scott Pierce, Tiffany R, Tammi Radcliff, George Roth, Sr., Logan Sullivan, Crystal, Hilary, Kelly, Lydi, Max, Blayne, Amber, George, Steve & Alba, Diana

Gulfport: No requests this week

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

Lakewood: No requests this week

Lakewood Ongoing: Joan & family, Otha Hudson (Josephine’s husband), Brian L's Family

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

THIS WEEK'S "AT HOME" DEVOTIONAL

What Happens When Jesus Becomes Your Lord: Romans 6:6–11

GATHERING

Light a candle to remind yourselves that Christ is making us new and leading us from old patterns into a life shaped by God’s love.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for calling us your beloved children and inviting us into new life. Give us the courage to see our past honestly, the wisdom to understand who we are today, and the hope for the people you are forming us to become. Help us say no to habits that harm and yes to your way of love. By your Spirit, make our inner lives and outward actions more like yours. Amen.

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

Highs & Lows

- 1. What is one thing that brought you joy this week?
- 2. Where have you noticed growth or positive change in your life?

THINKING ABOUT THE UPCOMING WEEK’S SCRIPTURE

Consider yourselves dead to sin but alive for God in Christ Jesus. — Romans 6:11

Jesus loves us as we are, but his love does not leave us unchanged. Following him means allowing old patterns to die so that a new life of freedom, joy, truth, and love can grow within us.

- 3. What part of your old way of life might Jesus be asking you to release?
- 4. Why is honest self-examination difficult—and how can love make it safer?
- 5. Is your life balanced between doing and simply being with God and others?
- 6. Who do you hope to become as Christ continues to shape your life?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - As you read this week, ask: **How does Christ lead us from our old life into new life?**

DAY	READING	THEME
Sunday	1 John 4:7–18	<i>Loved without Fear</i>
Monday	Mark 8:34–37	<i>Say No to the Old Life</i>
Tuesday	Psalms 139:1–18, 23–24	<i>See Yourself Honestly</i>
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 25:13–16	<i>One Honest Measure</i>
Thursday	Matthew 12:33–37	<i>The Heart Shapes the Fruit</i>
Friday	2 Corinthians 5:14–21	<i>A New Creation in Christ</i>
Saturday	Philippians 3:10–14	<i>Press toward What Lies Ahead</i>
Sunday	Romans 6:6–11	<i>Alive to God in Christ</i>

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

DEVOTIONAL

You are one of God’s favorite children—and so is everyone around you. That belovedness is not a reason for pride; it is the secure foundation from which transformation begins. Because Christ holds us in love, we can face the truth about ourselves without being trapped in shame.

Jesus says that those who follow him must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow. Paul describes this as the death of our old self so that we may become alive to God. Some habits, attitudes, and priorities must die: anger that wounds, contempt for others, dishonesty, selfishness, the misuse of power, and our constant need to control.

This change begins by looking honestly at the past. We often use one measure for ourselves and another for everyone else, excusing our behavior while judging theirs. A fearless moral inventory helps us see what we have done, listen to those we have affected, and invite Christ's healing into places we once defended or ignored.

Transformation also asks us to notice who we are now. Jesus shapes both our being and our doing. He cultivates patience within us so that kindness can flow from us. He quiets anxiety so that courage can grow. What fills the heart eventually becomes visible in our words and actions.

Christ does not erase the gifts, personality, or holy 'weirdness' that make you uniquely you. He heals what harms and strengthens what brings good to others. The Spirit works through your gifts so that your life can contribute something beautiful to the world.

Finally, we look toward the future. Like Paul, we have not already reached the goal, but we press on. When Jesus becomes our Lord, the past can be healed, the present becomes intentional, and the future opens with hope. We become distinct without becoming superior—people alive in Christ who seek the joy and flourishing of others.

PRAY TOGETHER

Invite each person to name one old habit to release and one Christlike quality they hope will grow. Then pray together:

Loving Jesus, thank you for knowing us completely and loving us still. Give us courage to face the past without excuses or shame. Show us what needs to die, heal what has been wounded, and form your love within us. Help us become patient, truthful, courageous, and compassionate. Lead us toward the future you desire for us, alive to God and ready to bless others. Amen.

MEALTIME PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank you for this food and for everyone gathered here. Nourish us with your love, free us from what harms, and help us grow into the people you created us to be. Amen.

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

Set aside fifteen quiet minutes this week for a prayerful inventory. Ask: What from my past needs Christ's healing? What is shaping my heart today? Who is Jesus calling me to become? Write one honest answer and take one small, concrete step toward new life.

CLOSING & BLESSING

Extinguish your candle as a reminder that the old life does not have the final word; in Christ, we are alive to God and still being made new.

With permission, make the sign of the cross on one another's hands or foreheads and say: **You are God's beloved child. Let the old life go, come alive in Christ, and press on toward who God is calling you to become.**