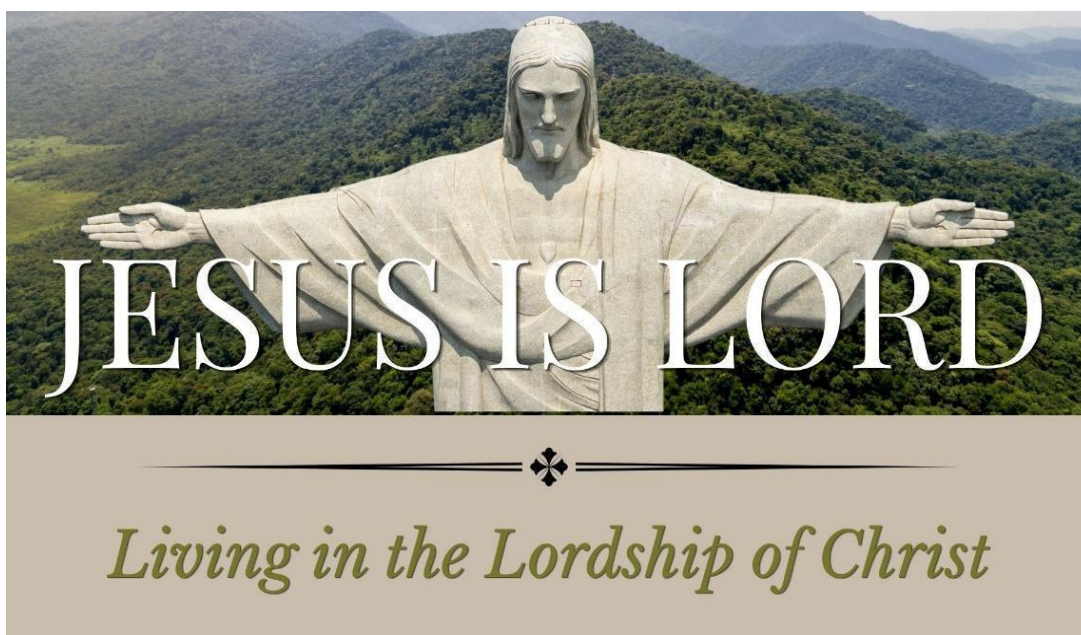




September 13th, 2026
11:15 am • Sanctuary & Online

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

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* | *Be Thou My Vision*– UMH 451 (vv. 1, 2 & 5)

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* | *Sweet Hour Of Prayer* – UMH 496

Prayer For Illumination

Scripture Reading | *John 15: 1-5* CEB

Choral Response | *He Is Lord* – UMH 177

Message | *Connected To Christ* – Rev. Tracie 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* | *Abide With Me* – UMH 700 (vv. 1, 3 & 5)

Benediction*

Flowers have been placed on the chancel

in honor of all September Birthdays and Anniversaries and Grandparents' Day.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

2nd Sunday Celebration! TODAY, stay after worship as we celebrate our birthdays and anniversaries together! Join us for a little food, fellowship, and celebration of the special people in our church family.

Campus Ministry Sunday - Today is Campus Ministry Sunday, and we will receive a special offering to support the Wesley Foundations of the Florida Conference. Wesley Foundations serve as our United Methodist presence on college and university campuses, helping students grow in their relationship with Christ, develop as servant leaders, build Christian community, and live out their faith.

With more than one million college students across Florida, this ministry is as important today as ever. Your generosity helps our Wesley Foundations continue reaching and walking alongside the next generation of disciples and leaders. Thank you for giving generously to Campus Ministry Sunday!

Called to Lead? Our Nominations & Leadership Development Committee is beginning its prayerful work of identifying leaders for 2027. If you have been thinking about becoming more involved in our church's leadership and would like to be considered, we would love to hear from you!

Please let one of the pastors know you're interested as we prayerfully discern together how God may be calling you to serve.

Here Comes the Pumpkin Patch! The 29th year of the Clearview Pumpkin Patch is almost here, and we need YOU to help make it happen! Plenty of opportunities to serve, meet our neighbors, and be part of this beloved community tradition. Sign up for a shift on our website (www.clearviewumc.org). Grab a shift—or more—and help us make year 29 a great one!

Help Our Sister Church! We need volunteers to fold and staple coloring books for the Clearview Pumpkin Patch! Come to St. Luke's on Tuesday or Thursday anytime between 9 am–noon to lend a hand. It's a simple way to help our sister church and serve together as the South Pinellas Connection.

ST. LUKE'S WEEKLY CALENDAR

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 – Grandparents' Day

- ACA, 9 am – Joy Room
- Jesus is Lord Grow Group, 10 am – Library
- St. Luke's Worship, 11:15 am – Sanctuary & Online
- Birthday and Anniversary Celebration, 12:15ish Narthex & Library
- OA, 5:30 pm – Joy Room

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

- Parkinson's Support Group, 1 pm – Wesley Hall
- Chair Volleyball, 3 pm – Wesley Hall
- Karate/Self Defense, 5 pm – 2nd floor Rec Room
- AA, 8 pm – Wesley Hall

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

- 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 16

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

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

- 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
- Girl Scouts, 6:30 pm, Girl Scout Room
- AA, 7:30 pm – Wesley Hall

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

- 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 19

- 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

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

- 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

SOUTH PINELLAS CONNECTION UPCOMING DATES

Sept 16-17	National Gathering of Local Pastors & Associate Members (Pastor Erick)	-	-
Sept 16	United Women in Faith Luncheon	12 pm	FG
Sept 23-29	Pastors Erick & Tracie on Vacation in Vermont	-	-
Sept 27	FREE Community Dinner	5-6:30 pm	CV
Sept 30-Oct 2	Emotionally Healthy Leadership Conf In New York City (Pastors Erick & Tracie)	-	-
Oct 3	United Methodist Men's Breakfast	8 am	SL
Oct 3	Pumpkin Patch Tent Set Up	8 am	CV
Oct 9	Pumpkin Patch Decorating	5:30-8:30 pm	CV
Oct 10	Pumpkin Unloading & Opening Day	8 am	CV

KEY

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

Week of Sept 6

Worship	34
Online Worship	14
Giving Received	\$2,775.62
Giving Needed	\$3,055.78
Surplus/Loss	-\$280.16

2026 Year To Date

Worship (avg)	35
Online (avg)	18
Giving Received	\$109,729.37
Giving Needed	\$110,008.08
Surplus/Loss	-\$278.11

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER LIST

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

St. Luke's: Jeannine Colbert (Steve Colbert); Audrey recovering from surgery, Ashley, my daughter (Kris Kemp); Maurice Tindell, passed away; he was a prayer warrior and Christian singer; Lisa, Trent, Mike, LouAnn Becker, Jacob & Jess (Bev Becker)

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

Clearview: For my sister, Leatha, whose husband, Marc Jones, is coming home from rehab this Wednesday after a month. Please pray for strength, understanding and patience while he continues healing (Laurie Davis); For my brother, Eldridge Jr. He had dementia & weakness standing & walking (Ethel Disney); Donna Robertson for family problems with her son concerning her grandson John, Jr., whom she raised from birth until his dad wanted a relationship with him at age 16 (Mary Jo Strid); for my brother, Rollie, who has lost food assistance (Arlene Tibbetts)

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, 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., Linda Stanley, Anver Suleman, Logan Sullivan, Crystal, Hilary, Kelly, Lydi, Max, Blayne, Amber, George, Steve & Alba, Diana, Theresa & Scott

Gulfport: My cousin Mary & her husband Bill- Mary is in hospice care following years of Alzheimer's (Sharon Ness). **From the Community Dinner:** Debbie S, who has surgery on her back; Pam & Jeff; Pam is in the hospital; Joe's dad, George, for health

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

Lakewood: Pastor Sue’s Aunt Sharon; The family of JoAnn & Richard Knight

Lakewood Ongoing: Joan and family, Otha Hudson (Josephine’s husband), Family of Brian L.

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

THIS WEEK'S "AT HOME" DEVOTIONAL

Compassion: Luke 7:11–17

GATHERING

Light a candle to remind yourselves that Jesus sees every person, draws near to those who suffer, and calls us to share his compassion.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Compassionate Lord, you see the pain we overlook and draw near to people others avoid. Open our eyes to notice those who are hurting. Soften our hearts when fear, anger, or judgment keeps us at a distance. Give us courage to listen, wisdom to respond, and love that moves us to action. Shape our lives by the compassion of Jesus Christ. 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?
- When did someone’s compassion make a difference for you?

THINKING ABOUT THE UPCOMING WEEK’S SCRIPTURE

When he saw her, the Lord had compassion for her and said, “Don’t cry.” — Luke 7:13

At Nain, Jesus notices a grieving widow whose only son has died. He sees her sorrow and vulnerability, is moved with compassion, and acts. Jesus shows us that compassion begins with attention, moves toward suffering, and offers love through practical action.

- What do you notice about the way Jesus responds to the widow?
- Why is it sometimes easier to avoid another person’s pain?
- What is the difference between pity and compassion?
- Who might need you to see, listen, and move toward them this week?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - As you read this week, ask: **How does the compassion of Jesus teach us to see, feel, and act?**

DAY	READING	THEME
Sunday	John 15:1–11	<i>Connected to Christ</i>
Monday	Exodus 3:1–10	<i>God Sees and Hears</i>
Tuesday	Psalms 145:8–14	<i>The Lord Is Compassionate</i>
Wednesday	Matthew 9:35–38	<i>Jesus Sees the Crowds</i>
Thursday	Luke 10:25–37	<i>Compassion Moves toward Need</i>
Friday	Colossians 3:12–17	<i>Clothed with Compassion</i>
Saturday	1 John 3:16–18	<i>Love in Action</i>
Sunday	Luke 7:11–17	<i>The Widow of Nain</i>

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

DEVOTIONAL

Faith is revealed not only by what we believe, but also by how we live. Calling Jesus ‘Lord’ means allowing his character to shape our conduct. Compassion is one of the clearest signs that Christ is forming us.

When Jesus enters Nain, he encounters a grieving woman who has lost her only son. As a widow, she may also have lost her security and support. Jesus sees more than a funeral procession. He sees her sorrow, vulnerability, and uncertain future.

Jesus’ heart goes out to her. He does not move away from suffering or offer an easy explanation. He moves toward her, speaks with tenderness, touches the bier, and acts. In Jesus, compassion means seeing clearly, feeling another person’s pain, and offering what love can give.

Compassion is different from pity. Pity can keep a safe distance; compassion stands beside someone. It listens without judgment and asks what faithful help might look like. It may offer practical assistance, advocate for change, or simply stay when there is no quick solution.

Compassion can leave us weary, so it must remain rooted in Christ’s love. We honor our limits, receive strength through prayer and community, and trust God to do what we cannot. We may not solve every problem, but we can see the need, move closer, and let God’s love become visible through our actions.

PRAY TOGETHER

Invite each person to name someone who is hurting, overlooked, or in need of care. Then pray together:

Compassionate Jesus, thank you for seeing us and meeting us with mercy. Open our eyes to the people around us. Free us from judgment and indifference. Give us patient ears, gentle words, wise boundaries, and willing hands. Show us one faithful way to move toward another person’s need. Amen.

MEALTIME PRAYER

Compassionate God, thank you for this food and for everyone gathered here. As you have cared for us, teach us to notice those in need and share your love with generous hearts. Amen.

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

Practice three movements of compassion this week: see the need, move toward the person, and share God’s love through action. Listen to someone who is hurting, offer practical help, write an encouraging note, or support a ministry serving vulnerable neighbors.

CLOSING & BLESSING

Extinguish your candle as a reminder that the light of Christ goes with you, helping you see suffering and respond with love.

With permission, make the sign of the cross on one another’s hands or foreheads and say: ***‘Go with the compassion of Christ. See the need, move toward your neighbor, and let God’s love become action.***