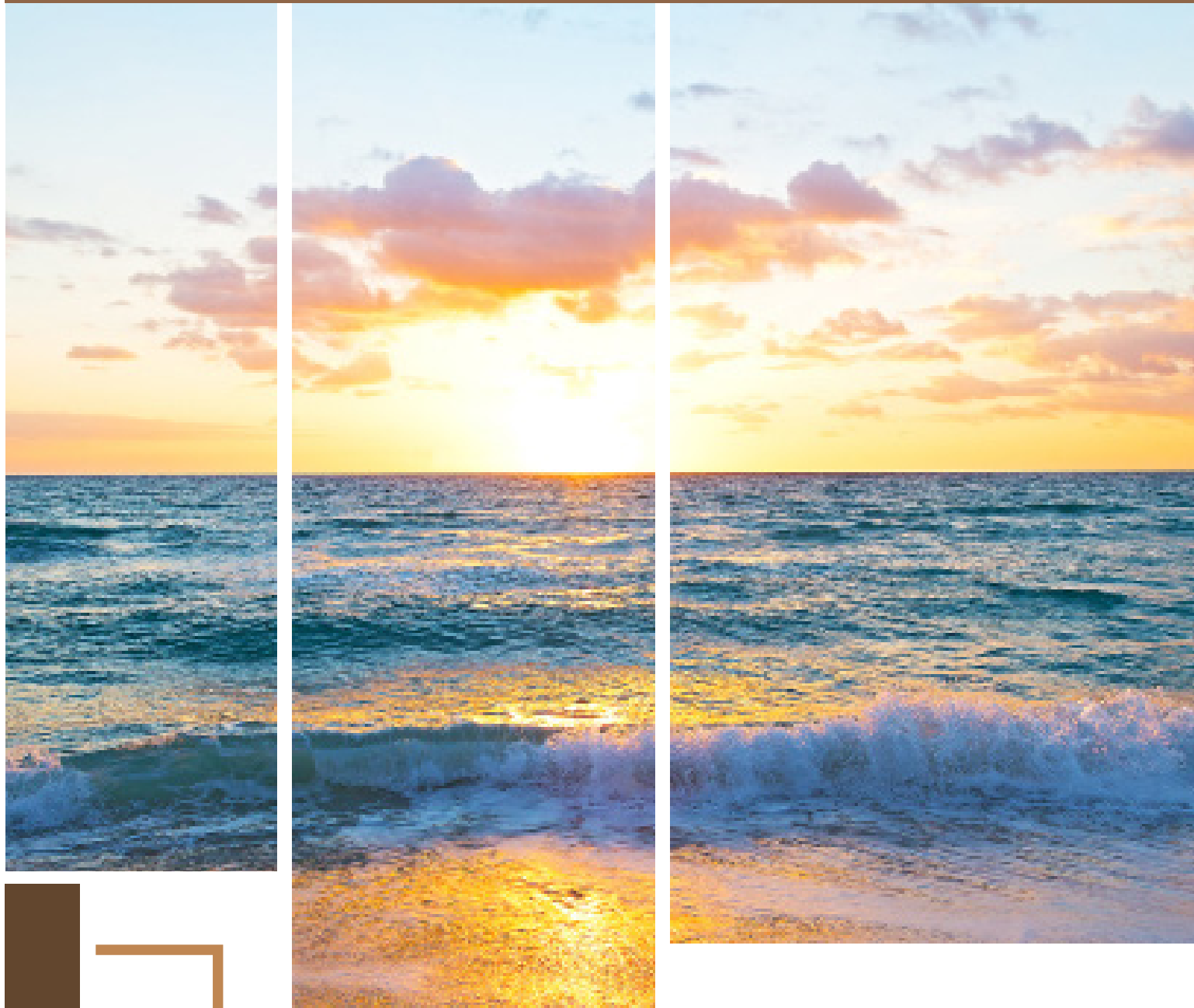




NOVEMBER 2025

— AWAKENING — **HEARTS**

Quarterly Magazine
Issue 5

 **ST. LUKE'S**
LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

// *Imagine an entire **community** coming*
ALIVE to the power of life in **CHRIST.** **//**



One Heart

As followers of Jesus at St. Luke's engage in Worship Gatherings, Spiritual Formation, and Community Connection, the Holy Spirit empowers transformed lives of Freedom, Joy, Sacrifice, and Renewal. It is a joy to see growing numbers of people experiencing this transformation! At the beginning of October, we welcomed almost 40 new members into our faith family, and they are joining us in our mission to awaken hearts in every generation to the power of life in Christ! Together, we are a gathering of many different backgrounds, ideas, and circumstances. But we are unified in our faith in Jesus. The more we grow in him, the more we grow with one another to have the heart of God. We are indeed one body!

One Way

In the following pages of this newsletter, you will find amazing articles that share how our members are rolling up their sleeves and digging into ministry! I am so excited to see God growing His kingdom, and using many of you to do so. As you read this newsletter, it is my prayer that you would consider what new things God may be calling you to do. Who do you see in your everyday life who could use some encouragement? Where do you see needs that you could meet? What are conversations that are heated and argumentative that you could deescalate and respond with love and grace?

Imagine if we all answered God's call to serve him and one another. I believe we would see an entire community coming alive to the power of life in Christ!

In the love of Christ,
Senior Pastor Tige Culbertson

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Tige Culbertson".

stories **HEART** of our from the community

ST. LUKE'S MINISTRY FAIR

Once a year, we host our Ministry Fair—a special event where a wide range of ministries, including both local organizations and those from St. Luke's, come together to share opportunities for service and community involvement. It's a day filled with connection, purpose, and hope as people discover ways to use their gifts to help others.

This year, we witnessed several inspiring moments like the one below, where members of our community and those eager to make a difference joined hands to bring support, comfort, and care to those in need. The story below comes from our partner Kari at Nathaniel's Hope, a charity that helps families struggling to raise children with disabilities.

"While standing at our booth that afternoon, I noticed a young mother lingering nearby with her son, who had special needs. Sensing an opportunity to connect, I gently asked if she had ever heard of Nathaniel's Hope and its Buddy Break ministry. She shook her head, unfamiliar with the program.

I began to share how Buddy Break offers free respite care—a few precious hours where children with special needs can enjoy games, crafts, and fun activities in a safe, loving environment, while parents get a chance to rest, run errands, or simply breathe. As I spoke, the mother's eyes welled with tears. She quietly said how much she longed for even a short break but never had anyone she could trust to help.

I handed her more information and promised to help find a nearby Buddy Break location. With tears of joy, she thanked me again and again. I knew in that moment that God had led her to St. Luke's Ministry Fair that exact place and time—so that this weary mother could find hope, encouragement, and the support she desperately needed through Nathaniel's Hope."

Pick up our new ministry booklet at the church office and see how you can serve at St. Luke's and in the community.



nathanielshope.org

Let's grow in discipleship together!

HOW

do we measure growth?

We take time to reflect on our personal transformation of freedom, joy, sacrifice, and renewal. I've had a chance to address the first three in previous newsletters, and this edition allows me the opportunity to reflect on the fourth and final measure of discipleship.

Renewal. Jesus promises that he will make all things new. This promise comes to full completion when he returns, but it starts the moment we find the love of God washing over us in the waters of our baptism! We get the refreshing joy of being made new each day. Every time we remember our baptism, every time we confess our sins and receive absolution, every time we make a better decision than we did yesterday, we are living out the power of the Holy Spirit to renew us with the life healing and life transforming love of Jesus.

I desire for you to grow in your daily appreciation for the forgiveness that Jesus abundantly and freely gives to you - to remove your sins as far as the east is from the west. I also desire for you to grow in your willingness to be so moved by God's grace in your life that you would share forgiveness with those who have caused you deep hurt.

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."
- Romans 12:2

Remember, forgiving someone who has deeply hurt you does not communicate that what they did was ok. It is graceful to grant someone forgiveness who does not deserve it. That is exactly what God does with us! And in the case of abuse, we can grant forgiveness at the same time that we establish and maintain healthy boundaries so that the abuse cannot continue.

Words Heal. Jesus' words of absolution heal our souls. Our own words of forgiveness bring healing to those we forgive, and healing to our own hearts. Forgiveness is life giving and life changing!

The forgiving love of Jesus meets us "as is." He comes to us as we are broken, but he doesn't leave us that way. His forgiveness heals our hearts, and then he starts to transform our way of thinking, speaking, and acting. *What is something unhelpful or unhealthy in your life that would be good to do less of, or eliminate entirely? What is something new and positive that you would like to see increase in your life?* **Pray for that.** Engage in Worship Gatherings, Spiritual Formation, and Community Connections, and watch the Holy Spirit bring you a transformed life of Renewal!

Being renewed each day,
Pastor Tige

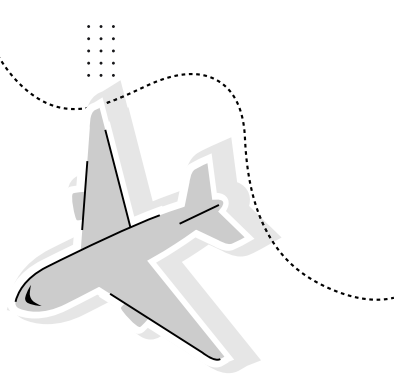
A LIFE OF *renewal*



"Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit." - Psalm 51:10-12

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

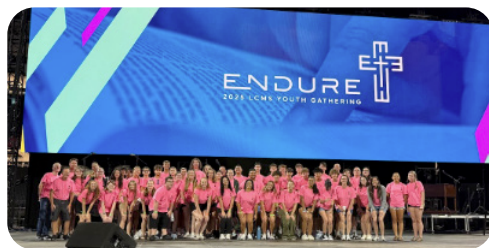
My name is Mickey (Mikayla) Curl, and I'm the DCE Intern working with our high school and college students. Recently, our group of 50+ students and adults traveled to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering, and it was an incredible experience!



What stood out most to me was how close our group became during the trip. Before we left, Pastor Sam said we'd become like family—and he was right! Like any family, we had our moments, but we also laughed, learned, and grew together. As a new intern, I feel so blessed to have shared this experience and watched students grow in faith and friendship. It was amazing to see students who were quiet at first end the trip laughing and connecting with new friends.



In the Exhibit Hall, students loved exploring different booths—especially the karaoke booth and Concordia Systems booth. They enjoyed learning about college opportunities and singing together, which was a great bonding experience. Many returned home expressing a new interest in Concordia Universities and Church Work Vocations.



Our students also deeply engaged with the Christian content offered at the Gathering. Many took notes during sessions and were inspired by the large-group worship experiences. Worshiping alongside thousands of peers who share their faith was consistently named a trip highlight. Of course, we also enjoyed our time exploring New Orleans—especially grabbing beignets from Café Du Monde and walking along Bourbon Street!

- Mikayla Curl, DCE Intern



"My experience at the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans was really eye-opening. I learned so much about my faith in such a short time. I made stronger connections with my youth group and enjoyed the trip immensely." - Connor Mueller, YG & YLT Member



middle schoolers
6th-8th
grade

Middle School Youth (MSY) is a group for 6th–8th graders that exists to awaken students to their identity in Christ and empower them to participate in the community of faith. Middle school can be a challenging time full of change and growth. What better way to navigate it than by being reminded of who you are in Christ!

This fall has been amazing! We kicked things off with a party featuring a blind soda taste test and a talk on shining brightly for Jesus. Each fall we spend an entire day team building. We have team building experts run us through some challenging activities, then walk together to McDonalds to get ice cream, while practicing using good manners, and then pick weeds to practice service. It is an opportunity to grow in trust and relationship with each other.

Our most recent event was a Chick-fil-A-themed night where we ate and discussed how God brings order to chaos. We're so grateful for our volunteers who pour into students with genuine care each week.

Next up, we'll join other Florida-Georgia District churches for a weekend of fun and worship at the middle school youth gathering. What a blessing it is to serve the middle school families of St. Luke's!

- Annalisa Fitzsimmons, DCE



HONDURAS

UPDATE



Great news from our mission work in Honduras. After many years of work by Christians in Central America and here in the states, the Honduras government has officially recognized a brand new denomination: The Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Mission of Honduras. The Lord used our very own Pastor Brian Roberts to kick start this ministry.

Pastor Roberts said the following; *"I am delighted this finally happened. It was a long process to come together but it did according to God's timing."*



It's exciting to see how God is raising up what is needed for that church to succeed; things like the pastoral formation, the training of deaconesses, and the acquisition of property. It is so exciting to see and it was a great joy for me to be a part of this ministry. The early days had so many challenges, but God worked through them all. Becoming a legal entity as a church simplifies the mission in so many ways."

Now the LCMS office of International Missions will work on sending a full time missionary to the area. Numerous Hondurans will begin or complete pastoral and deaconess training, and we plan to continue the work to grow new preaching stations throughout the country.

We thank you for all the prayers and financial support given over the years as the Holy Spirit grows His church here, in Honduras, and around the world.

- Pastor Scott Coerber

**To donate to
the Honduras ministry,
visit St. Luke's Giving page
and select Honduras Support**



LERT

Disaster Relief

One of the strengths of the church has always been it's expression of love for others in need. St. Luke's has continued to build our ministry to support others after a disaster. Our LERT (Lutheran Early Response Team) held their annual training in August. Nine members of our congregation attended the Basic LERT training and seven attended the Chainsaw training.

LERT Basic training prepares individuals to reach out after a disaster. The training teaches that God's mercy is the most important aspect of the help we can provide. No matter what has happened in a disaster, affected individuals need to know that the love of God is present and working. Whether we are there to clean up trees and brush, or complete a flood clean up, or help after a fire, the physical labor is the visible show of our love and Christ's love for them.

Since hurricanes and tornadoes are frequent occurrences in the U.S., the LCMS LERT program also sponsors chainsaw training. In these disasters, the ability to clean roads and homes of debris is an early request and one that we can help with. St. Luke's LERT team has been traveling throughout Florida and the Southeast U.S. over the last ten+ years assisting with relief efforts. We now own a truck, trailer, tractor with grapples and bucket, chainsaws, chaps, helmets, and more that are all needed in our early response efforts.

Join our Disaster Response Team!
Sign up for future events.

slcs.org/lert

In recent years, we have helped in St. Charles Louisiana, Fairhope Alabama, Fort Myers, Tampa, St. Pete, and several locations in North Carolina this year. Almost 100 members of our teams helped out locally with more than 1000 hours of help after hurricanes Irma, Ian, Helene and Milton. We continue to work closely with Seminole County Emergency Response to provide help in the county.

Have questions about joining our disaster response team? Email LERT@slcs.org.

- The LERT Leadership Team



ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT

From St. Luke's to the World Stage: CELEBRATING ALUMNA ANGELA Calvo-Chumbimuni

At St. Luke's Lutheran School, we are always proud to see how God continues to work in the lives of our alumni. Today, we celebrate the incredible accomplishments of Angela Calvo-Chumbimuni, a St. Luke's alumna whose passion for science and heart for helping others has taken her all the way to the **Regeneron International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF)**—the world's largest pre-college science competition.

Angela was the youngest student from Seminole County this year to compete at ISEF, where she presented groundbreaking research. She developed one sensor and one biosensor capable of detecting low serotonin levels and down regulated microRNA-1202 levels using advanced molecular techniques. Her goal? To improve the early diagnosis of mental health disorders—an area of research inspired by her studies in AP Psychology and her desire to make a difference in the lives of others.

Her hard work and innovation paid off: Angela earned **3rd Place in the world in Biochemistry**. Reflecting on the moment, she described it as *"amazing, and something I never expected. I'm so thankful to my teachers and the encouragement I've had along the way."*

But Angela's journey is about more than science—it's also about the foundation she built at St. Luke's. She credits **Mrs. Weeks and the Science Fair program** for sparking her love of research and encouraging her to dream big. *"My entire science fair journey started at St. Luke's,"* Angela shared. *"Mrs. Weeks inspired me to keep going, and her passion and encouragement were a huge part of why I reached this level."*

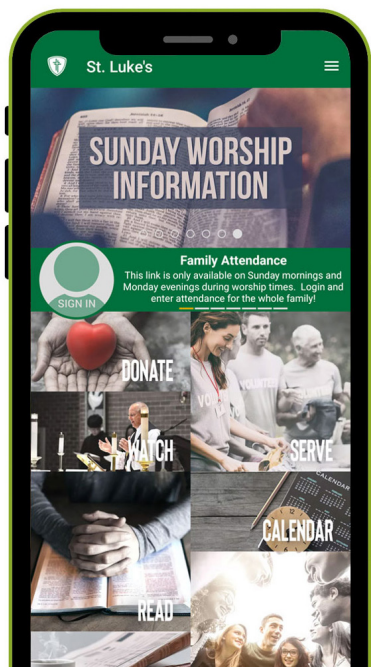
Even on the international stage, Angela leaned on her faith and the values instilled in her at St. Luke's. She recalled moments of nervousness before presenting to the judges, but found comfort in remembering Bible verses, chapel songs, and the reassurance that God was with her. *"Faith has been such an important part of facing challenges like these,"* she said.

Angela's story is a reminder that the seeds planted at St. Luke's—through faith, encouragement, and a love of learning—can grow into something extraordinary. We are so proud of Angela and can't wait to see how God continues to use her gifts in the future.





SCAN HERE
to access all past issues.



WORSHIP SERVICES

8AM

Traditional, *Sanctuary*

9:30AM

Traditional, *Sanctuary*

Contemporary with Sunday School, *Founders' Hall*

Traditional, *Lutheran Haven*

11AM

Traditional, *Sanctuary*

Contemporary, *Founders' Hall*

MONDAY 7PM

Traditional, *Chapel*

Learn more
about St. Luke's

