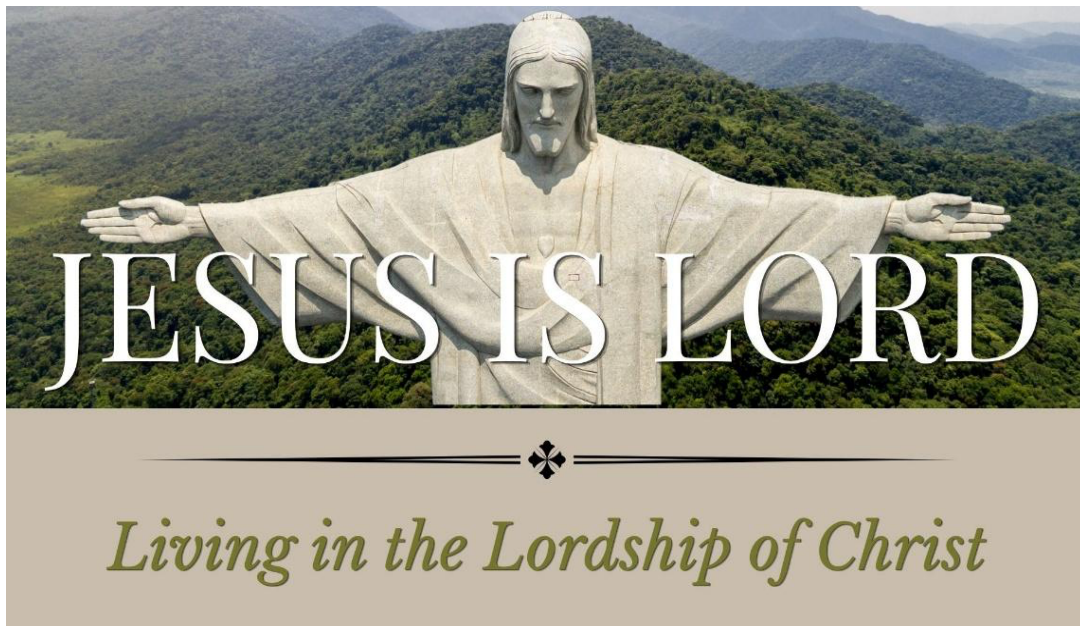




August 16th, 2026

11:15 am • Sanctuary & Online

A combined worship service of the South Pinellas Connection

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.
- Childcare is available for non-school-aged children (infants through age 4) in the nursery at the far east end of the building. Children in Grades K through 5 are invited to worship until after the Children's Moment, then go to Sunday School in the nursery.
 - Help us create the best learning environment we can by leaving toys at home. Snacks for younger children are ok but should not be brought for elementary-aged children.
 - Please encourage your child(ren) to use the restroom before church starts.
- 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*

Come, people of God, and lift your hearts to the Lord.

We come to worship Jesus Christ, our Savior and our Lord.

Christ calls us to leave behind fear, selfishness, and sin.

We come seeking lives that are transformed by God's grace.

Jesus is Lord over every season, every circumstance, and every heart.

We gladly proclaim that Jesus is Lord!

Let us worship God with joyful hearts and faithful lives. Amen!

Hymn* | *To God Be The Glory* – UMH 98

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* | *Crown Him With Many Crowns* – UMH 327

Children's Moment

Choir Anthem | *How Can I Keep From Singing*

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 | *Mark 9:14-29* NRSV

Choral Response | *Fairest Lord Jesus* – UMH 189 (v1)

Message | *From Belief to Trust* – Bishop Tom Berlin

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* | *Majesty, Worship His Majesty* – UMH 176 with *He Is Lord* – UMH 177

Benediction*

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Potluck Lunch – Please join us in Wesley Hall following worship today. If you have food to drop off, you can take it to the Wesley Hall Kitchen through the double doors down the hall from the Sanctuary. Even if you weren't able to bring a dish, please join us for good fun, good food, and good fellowship.

Childcare for Today - Childcare is available for non-school-aged children (infants through age 4) in the nursery at the far east end of the building. Children in Grades K through 5 are invited to worship until after the Children's Moment, then go to Sunday School in the nursery.

Join a GROW Group - All are invited to join a GROW group as we explore Bishop Berlin's book through scripture, conversation, and fellowship. Come grow in faith, build relationships, and deepen your walk with Christ.

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

The Bishop's Book – Jesus Is Lord is available TODAY for \$18. Payment may be made by cash, check (payable to Clearview UMC; please write "Book" in the memo line), or a debit/credit card.

Join us in Wesley Hall to have Bishop Tom Berlin sign your copy following today's worship service.

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

Wesley Hall Closed - Please note that Wesley Hall will be closed August 17–19 while our facility is being used as a voting location. Thank you for your understanding as we welcome our community to our campus.

CLEARVIEW

Community Dinner – Join us for our monthly Community Dinner on Sunday, August 23, at 5 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Enjoy a delicious meal, friendly conversation, and a welcoming atmosphere for all ages. Whether you're a longtime friend or a first-time guest, there's always a seat for you at the table. We hope to see you there!

It's Pumpkin Time - Don't look now, but 🎃🎃🎃 Pumpkin season is approaching fast. Please mark your calendars for our church-wide Pumpkin Patch Information

Meeting on **SUNDAY, AUG 30 @ 11 am in the Fellowship Hall**. Be the first to hear what your planning team has in store for our 29th Annual 🎃 Pumpkin Patch! A light lunch will be provided. Contact Jill Goude, Cindi Gilbert & Judy Tension, Patch Coordinators with any questions.

FIRST GULFPORT

Save the Date: Town Hall Meeting – Our Leadership Board will host a Town Hall Meeting immediately following worship on Sunday, August 23. Please plan to stay for important financial updates about our church and future opportunities.

And don't worry—we'll bring the coffee to you, so there's no need to head to the Fellowship Hall first.

Leadership Board Meeting - Our next Leadership Board meeting will be on Thursday, August 27 at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please keep our board members in your prayers as they gather to make decisions, discern God's leading, and plan for the future ministries of our church.

Connect One. Drop One - Who can you invite this week? A simple invitation to worship, Sunday School, or a church event could be the very thing someone needs. Each time you extend an invitation, drop a blue stone into the jar as a reminder that together we're sharing Christ's love—one conversation, one invitation, and one person at a time.

SOUTH PINELLAS CONNECTION UPCOMING DATES

Week of Aug 23	<i>Jesus is Lord</i> Grow Groups Begin (All Church Campuses)	See Above	ALL
Sept 1	Virtual Fall Laity Gathering via ZOOM	10 am	ALL
Sept 5	United Methodist Men's Breakfast	8:30 am	SL
Sept 8	United Women in Faith Meeting & Study	10 am	SL
Sept 13	Campus Ministry Sunday	-	ALL
Sept 14-15	Rooted: Training Event for Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Warren Willis Camp & Conference Center	-	ALL
Sept 16	United Women in Faith Luncheon	12 pm	FG
Sept 19	Beloved Community Summit – Love First Florida Southern College-Lakeland	9 am-3:30 pm	ALL

KEY

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

Across the South Pinellas Connection

Week of Aug 9		2026 Year To Date	
Worship	159	Worship (avg)	146
Online Worship	45	Online (avg)	55
Giving Received	\$7,842.01	Giving Received	\$226,062.40
Giving Needed	\$7,555.79	Giving Needed	\$241,785.28
Surplus/Loss	\$286.22	Surplus/Loss	-\$15,722.88

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER LIST

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

St. Luke’s: Prayers for Justin Wells, Joelle Wells, Ralph Reed (Judith Fain), Christine, had back surgery on August 12 (Candace Willis’ niece), Lynn, cancer and ulcer (Marlene Lieber’s neighbor)

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: Tim, that his requested transfer and job assignment are approved; Maria’s eye surgery heals and has a smooth, speedy recovery; “God sightings” Bill has re-connected with friends and will be continuing his college education (Debbie #2); For my partner, Carl Glenn, he was diagnosed in May with dementia. We are on a new journey that will have many challenges now and in the future (Debby Deacon); Prayers for my finance business to help seniors in their homes and reduce their debts (Deborah Xavier-Velez); Lynda Waite-dizziness inner ear problems; Keep my father, Edward Shatto in your prayers as he has dementia and is getting worse and declining; my mom, Eileen Clark, she got bad news from Moffit, they found something on her test results after all (Ann & David); Anver Suliman-ongoing health issues (Cassie Berg); Prayers for getting medication and financial situation (Rex Staton)

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, Kristie Owens, Jim Patterson, Scott Pierce, Tammi Radcliff, George Roth, Sr., Logan Sullivan, Crystal, Hilary, Kelly, Lydi, Max, Blayne, Amber, George, Steve & Alba

Gulfport: Son, George Wamhoff (Jack Wamhoff), my best friend Max & his wife Tara, just had a baby boy, Francis, praying that all the love, support, and good health comes their way (Autumn Filock)

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

Lakewood: Joan and family

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

THIS WEEK'S "AT HOME" DEVOTIONAL

Jesus Is Lord: Acts 2:32–36

GATHERING

Light a candle to remind yourselves that the risen Jesus is Lord and that his love can transform every part of our lives.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Lord Jesus Christ, you are risen, reigning, and worthy of our trust. Awaken in us reverence for who you are and gratitude for your love. Bring what we believe and how we live into harmony. As we surrender ourselves to you each day, transform our words, choices, and relationships so that others may experience your grace through us. 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. When did your actions reflect your faith this week—or fail to reflect it?

THINKING ABOUT THE UPCOMING WEEK’S SCRIPTURE

“Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.” — Acts 2:36 (NIV)

Peter once misunderstood Jesus, reacted in fear, and denied knowing him. After the resurrection and Pentecost, Peter boldly proclaimed that Jesus is Lord. His changed life reveals what can happen when a confession becomes a conviction.

- 1. What changed Peter from a fearful disciple into a courageous witness?
- 2. What is the difference between calling Jesus Lord and living as though he is Lord?
- 3. Where do your beliefs and daily actions fit together well?
- 4. What decision could you place under Christ’s direction this week?

DAILY BIBLE READINGS - As you read this week, ask: **How does knowing Jesus as Lord transform the way we live?**

DAY	READING	THEME
Sunday	Colossians 2:6–7	<i>Continue to Live in Christ</i>
Monday	Psalm 103:19–22	<i>The Lord Reigns over All</i>
Tuesday	Exodus 3:13–15	<i>Reverence for God’s Name</i>
Wednesday	Matthew 1:18–25	<i>Jesus, God with Us</i>
Thursday	Luke 6:43–49	<i>Belief Made Visible</i>
Friday	John 20:19–29	<i>From Fear to Faith</i>
Saturday	Acts 2:1–21	<i>Empowered by the Spirit</i>
Sunday	Acts 2:32–36	<i>Jesus Is Lord and Messiah</i>

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

DEVOTIONAL

Peter’s words in Acts 2 carry special weight because of the person he had been. During Jesus’ ministry, Peter often misunderstood, reacted impulsively, and finally denied knowing Jesus. Yet at Pentecost, this once-fearful disciple stood before a crowd and proclaimed with confidence that Jesus is both Lord and Messiah.

What changed? Peter encountered the risen Christ, received the Holy Spirit, and came to understand who Jesus truly is. Jesus was no longer simply the teacher walking beside him. Jesus was Lord—the one worthy of Peter’s trust, obedience, and whole life.

Calling Jesus Lord is more than using a religious title. It is more than agreeing with a doctrine or having one powerful spiritual moment. A single decision becomes transforming when it grows into a daily conviction that shapes every decision.

Tom Berlin invites us to consider two questions: What did this person believe? How did this person live? The most meaningful Christian witness is found where those answers meet. If we say Jesus is Lord, our words, actions, loyalties, and treatment of others should increasingly resemble his way.

That alignment does not come through willpower alone. As we surrender ourselves to Christ, the Holy Spirit patiently forms us. Reverence deepens. Prayer becomes sacred. Fear gives way to courage. Self-protection gives way to service. The image of God within us becomes more visible.

Jesus cannot be Lord only during worship and then be left behind when we enter the parking lot. His lordship becomes a way of life when we receive his love consistently and respond by living in that love. Like Peter, we can become people whose changed lives bless others and point them toward Christ.

PRAY TOGETHER

Invite each person to name one choice or habit they want Christ to transform. Then pray together:

Lord Jesus, we confess that you are Lord and Messiah. Forgive us when our lives contradict the faith we proclaim. Fill us with your Spirit and make our beliefs visible through loving words, faithful choices, courageous service, and reverence for you. Transform us day by day so that our lives may bless others and point them toward your grace. Amen.

MEALTIME PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank you for this food and for everyone gathered here. As you nourish our bodies, shape our lives so that what we believe and how we live honor you. Amen.

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

Begin each day by praying, ‘Jesus, be Lord of my life today.’ Before one important choice, pause and ask, ‘Does this reflect the way of Christ?’ Then take one concrete step that brings your actions into closer alignment with your faith.

CLOSING & BLESSING

Extinguish your candle as a reminder that the risen Christ sends us into the world with the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

With permission, make the sign of the cross on one another’s hands or foreheads and say: **‘Jesus is Lord. Let your beliefs shape your life, let his Spirit transform you, and let his love shine through you.’**