

Welcome! We are happy to share God's peace with everyone. Visitors are invited to sign our guest book in the entryway. If you have any questions, the ushers are ready to help. Feel free to visit after the service.

- Aids to assist with hearing (Williams Sound System) are available from the ushers.
- Printed copies of the sermon are available on the tract desk.
- Large Print Service binders can be found on the tract desk.
- Personal prayers for use before church or during the week are printed on p. 255- 258 in the hymnal.
- For a personal preparation for Holy Communion, please see pages 295-296 in your hymnal.

Please note: the Sunday service is being recorded and streamed on YouTube.

www.youtube.com/@stlukesvassar

Our Lord teaches in his Word that in Communion we receive Jesus' true body and blood in, with, and under the bread and wine, and that participation is also a declaration that we believe what our fellow communicants believe. In obedience to God's Word, then, we ask that only those who agree on all points of teaching—those who belong to a WELS or ELS church—

and are confirmed partake in the Lord's Supper today. If you are not a member of WELS or ELS church but would like to pursue that unity of faith, or if you have questions, please speak with Pastor.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, abr., alt.

Text: Public domain

Sunday Liturgy: (Monday service begins on page 7)

380 Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun CW 380

- 1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore
till moons shall wax and wane no more.
- 2 To him shall endless prayer be made
and endless praises crown his head;
his name like sweet perfume shall rise
with ev'ry morning sacrifice.
- 3 People and realms of ev'ry tongue
Dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.
- 4 Blessings abound where'er he reigns:
the pris'ners leap, unloosed their chains,
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.
- 5 Let ev'ry creature rise and bring
worship and honor to our King;

angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, abr., alt.
Text: Public domain

Be seated

Holy Baptism

CW 151

Confession

Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded Baptism when he said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

All of us are born into this world with a deep need for Baptism. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature; we are without true fear of God and true faith in God and are condemned to eternal death. But while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He took away our sin by giving his life on the cross. In Baptism, he clothes us with the robe of his righteousness and gives us a new life. We recall what Baptism means for our daily lives: **Baptism means that the sinful nature in us should be drowned by daily sorrow and**

repentance,

and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death.

It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

As baptized children of God, we confess our sins:

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for Meditation and Reflection

God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit and united us to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Every day God forgives your sins, removes your guilt, and strengthens you to defeat

Satan's power. His promise is for you and your children, and he will never forsake you. Your sins are forgiven. You are clothed with Christ. You are at peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

The Gospel according to St. Mark:

People were bringing little children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples rebuked them. When Jesus saw this, he was indignant. He said to them, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.” And he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on them and blessed them.

Max Fisher Bess, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart + to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has given you the new birth of water and the Spirit and

has forgiven all your sins. May he strengthen you with his grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

Let us pray.

We give thanks, most merciful Father, that you have received Max Fisher Bess as your own child and made him a member of Christ's body, the church. Now, we pray, grant to him and to all your church on earth that, being dead to sin, we may live to righteousness and, being buried with Christ into his death, we may also share in his resurrection, so that, with all your saints, we may inherit eternal life; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray,

Almighty God, you gave your one and only Son to be the light of the world. Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and believed to the ends of the earth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Service continues on the bottom of pg. 9

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- 5 Let ev'ry creature rise and bring
worship and honor to our King;
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen.

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Text: Public domain

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the
Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

**I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts,
words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and
forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a
sinner.**

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his

authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 190

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest

CW 191

Refrain: Glory to God in the highest, glory to God, and peace to his people on earth, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen. *Refrain*

THE WORD

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you gave your one and only Son to be the light of the world. Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and believed to the ends of the earth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(Be seated)

First Reading

Isaiah 49:1-6

¹Listen to me, you coastlands.
 Pay attention, you faraway peoples!
 The LORD called me from the womb.
 When I was inside my mother, he mentioned my name.

²He made my mouth like a sharpened sword.
 He hid me in the shadow of his hand.
 He made me a polished arrow.
 He concealed me in his quiver.

³He said to me, “You are my servant Israel,
 in whom I will display my glory.”

⁴But I said to myself, “I have labored in vain.
 I spent my strength and came up empty, with nothing.

Yet a just verdict for me rests with the LORD,
 and my reward is with my God.”

⁵But now the LORD,
 who formed me from the womb to be his servant,
 to turn Jacob back to him,
 so that Israel might be gathered to him,
 so that I will be honored in the eyes of the LORD,
 because my God has been my strength—

⁶the LORD said:
 It is too small a thing that you should just be my servant

to raise up only the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the ones I have preserved in
Israel,

so I will appoint you to be a light for the nations,
so that my salvation will be known to the end of
the earth.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

40 I Waited, Waited for the LORD

Psalm 40

1 I waited, waited for the LORD;
 he turned and heard my plea.
And from the pit, the mire, and clay,
 he fin'ly lifted me.
High on a cliff he set my feet,
 gave me a base to stand,
a new song put upon my lips
 to make his praises grand.
2 Thus many souls will fear the LORD
 and look to him for aid.
How blessed are all who trust in him,
 not gods their hands have made.
So many wonders, LORD my God,
 and marvels you have done!

What loving plans you made for us!
 Who can compare? Not one.

3 If only I could tell your deeds,
 but who can count them all?
 You did not ask for sacrifice,
 but ears to hear your call.
 Since off'rings you did not require,
 I stated, on my part:
 “I come to do your will, my God;
 your law is in my heart.”

4 I tell your gathered people, LORD,
 what mercy you bestow,
 nor do I ever seal my lips,
 as you, my LORD, well know.
 I do not hide within my heart
 your holy righteousness,
 but speak aloud your saving help,
 your perfect faithfulness.

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Second Reading

Colossians 2:6–15

⁶Therefore, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to walk in him, ⁷by being rooted and built up in him, and strengthened in the faith just as you were taught, while you overflow in faith with thanksgiving.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, which are in accord with

human tradition, namely, the basic principles of the world, but not in accord with Christ. ⁹For all the fullness of God's being dwells bodily in Christ. ¹⁰And you have been brought to fullness in him. Christ is the head over every ruler and authority. ¹¹You were also circumcised in him, with a circumcision not done by human hands, in the putting off of the body of flesh, in the circumcision of Christ, ¹²when you were buried with Christ in baptism. And in baptism you were also raised with him through the faith worked by the God who raised Christ from the dead.

¹³Even when you were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ by forgiving us all our trespasses. ¹⁴God erased the record of our debt brought against us by his legal demands. This record stood against us, but he took it away by nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵After disarming the rulers and authorities, he made a public display of them by triumphing over them in Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins,

1 John 2:2

and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel

John 1:29–41

²⁹The next day, John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look! The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰This is the one I was talking about when I said, ‘The one coming after me outranks me because he existed before me.’ ³¹I myself did not know who he was, but I came baptizing with water so that he would be revealed to Israel.”

³²John also testified, “I saw the Spirit descend like a dove from heaven and remain on him. ³³I myself did not recognize him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘The one on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ ³⁴I saw this myself and have testified that this is the Son of God.”

³⁵The next day, John was standing there again with two of his disciples. ³⁶When John saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look! The Lamb of God!” ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.

³⁸When Jesus turned around and saw them following him, he asked, “What are you looking for?”

They said to him, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”

³⁹He told them, “Come, and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying. They stayed with him that day. It was about the tenth hour.

⁴⁰Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. ⁴¹The first thing Andrew did was to find his own brother Simon and say to him, “We have found the Messiah!” (which is translated “the Christ”).

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

(Be seated)

375 Arise and Shine in Splendor

CW 375

1 Arise and shine in splendor;
let night to day surrender.

 Your light is drawing near.
 Above, the day is beaming,
 in matchless beauty gleaming;
 the glory of the Lord is here.

2 See earth in darkness lying,
the heathen nations dying
 in hopeless gloom and night.
To you the Lord of heaven—

your life, your hope—has given
great glory, honor, and delight.

3 Lift up your eyes in wonder—
see, nations gather yonder
from sin to be set free.
The world has heard your story;
her sons come to your glory,
her daughters haste your light to see.

4 Your heart will leap for gladness
when from the realms of sadness
they come from near and far.
Your eyes will wake from slumber
as people without number
rejoice to see the Morning Star.

Text: Martin Opitz, 1597-1639, abr.; tr. Gerhard Gieschen, 1859-1937, a/c.
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Sermon

Colossians 2:6-15

Jesus Gives Life

- I. He made us alive (11-15)
- II. He enables us to live (6-10)

(Stand)

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic
Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness
of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**
(Be seated)

Prayer of the Church

Offering

THE SACRAMENT (Stand)

Preface

CW 199

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 200

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to

redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

**For thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my \dagger body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my \dagger blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Lamb of God

CW 202

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us, grant us peace.

(Be seated)

Distribution

(As he distributes the elements, the minister says to the communicants:)

Take and eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.

Take and drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, poured out for the forgiveness of your sins.

(As he dismisses the communicants, the minister says:)

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go + in peace.

Amen.

670 I Come, O Savior, to Your Table

CW 670

1 I come, O Savior, to your table,
for weak and weary is my soul;
O Jesus, you alone are able
to satisfy and make me whole. (Refrain)

**Ref Lord, may your body and your blood
be for my soul the highest good.**

2 O grant that I in manner worthy
may eat and drink and be restored,

and, dwelling on your boundless mercy,
look only unto you, O Lord. (Refrain)

3 I should not be your sheep, dear Savior;
I stray in sin's accursed terrain.
And yet you pardon my behavior;
my faithful Shepherd you remain. (Refrain)

4 O let me loathe all sin forever
as death and poison to my soul,
that I through willful sinning never
may see your judgment take its toll! (Refrain)

5 Your holy heart has one obsession,
one blessed thing it burns to do—
to cleanse the sinner from transgression;
so I, a sinner, come to you. (Refrain)

6 My soul is burdened; Lord, relieve me,
by all this weight of sin oppressed!
Though sinful, yet, in grace receive me
and feed me as your grateful guest. (Refrain)

7 Within me, Lord, your vision traces
a heart of deep humility
that mourns its sin and yet embraces
the merit you have earned for me. (Refrain)

8 By faith I call your holy table
the testament of your deep love,
for by your gift I now am able
to know the heart of God above. (Refrain)

9 This meal with blessing is abounding:
 to poor ones wealth, to weak ones pow'r,
 to angels joy, to hell confounding,
 and life for me in death's dark hour. (Refrain)

(Stand)

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.
Amen.

670 I Come, O Savior, to Your Table

CW 670

Vs. 10

10 My heart has now become your dwelling,
 O blessed, holy Trinity.
 With angels I, your praises telling,
 shall live in joy eternally. (Refrain)

Text: Friedrich C. Heyder, 1677–1754, abr.; (sts. 1, Ref. 2, 4, 8–10) tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941; (sts. 3, 5–7) tr. Michael D. Schultz, Jr., 1965
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 Setting: Three from Christian Worship
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Sunday 01/18/2026.....9:00 AM Communion Worship
 Monday 01/19/2026.....7:00 PM Communion Worship
 Thursday 01/22/2026.....5:30 PM Women's Bible Study
 Friday 01/23/2026.....6:30 PM Euchre/Game Night
 Sunday 01/25/2026.....9:00 AM Worship Service
 Monday 01/26/2026.....7:00 PM Worship Service

Our Time to Our Lord

January Servers

Sundays Paul and Silas Schultz, Eric Korthals
Monday: David Atkins

Communion Elders: Jan. 18-Brandon Frank, Feb. 01 &
 15-Jay Newcomer

Finance: Gabe Fall and John Korthals

Altar Guild: Beth Solgat and Beth Arnold
Organist: Olivia Marker

Sunday Morning Bible Class: History of the WELS
Snack Volunteers:

January 18th Solgat.... January 25th Voter's Meeting
 February 1st Phil & Chris Pellar..... February 8th Rose Walker

Our Treasures to Our Lord

Services included: January 5th and January 11th

Budgetary Gifts: \$5,048.00

Initial Offering: \$120.00

Sunday School: \$5.00

Fellowship Hall Rental (Fall): \$30.00

Attendance

Sunday January 11th: 100 Monday January 12th: 20 Sunday School: 5

Our Talents to Our Lord

Baptism: In the Sunday service Max Fisher Bess, the son of Matthew and Bridget Bess, will be made a child of God and an heir of eternal life through the sacrament of Holy Baptism. May God keep him in his baptismal grace throughout his life!

Sworn Into Office: Ron Nichol: Vice President, Joel Birsching: Financial Secretary, David Atkins: LES School Board, Phil Pellar: Elder. We wish you God's abundant blessings as you begin your terms.

Voters' Assembly: Following the service on January 25 we will have our fourth quarter Voters' Assembly. Among the topics for discussion will be the adoption of the budget for 2026. Plan to join us!

A Sincere Thank You! To everyone who came to decorate the church, thank you! It appears this has become a smooth operation that allows the work to be done neatly and orderly! Ava Denniston, you have the nativity set down, thank you for all your help!!!

Euchre/Game Night is this Friday, January 23rd at 6:30 PM. Join your fellow believers in the fun, fellowship, and family!

Michigan Lutheran Seminary News
to Give
Current MLS Students of St. Luke's
Braylin Zieroff, Phoebe Schultz, Piper
Schultz

The MLS Poms team invites girls in grades K-5 from WELS/ELS churches or schools to join the Jr. Cardinal Poms Clinic on January 25, 2026!

Participants will learn a fun routine to perform at halftime of the MLS varsity basketball game on Friday night, January 30. Cost is \$20 (includes shirt and snack; optional poms and hair bows available). Registration closes January 13 at midnight. For more details or to register, visit www.mlsem.org.

Questions? Contact Michael Priebe at mdp@mlsem.org



Women's LIGHT Group
*(Ladies Inspiring Godly Hearts
 Together)*

All women are encouraged to join our Women's **LIGHT** Group, meeting at 5:30 PM on the **2nd Tuesday** and **4th Thursday** of each month. This group is a great opportunity to connect, grow in faith, and encourage one another.

Tuesdays will focus on **service work**, both in-house and out in the community.

Thursdays will be dedicated to a **women's Bible study**.

Upcoming in February:

- **Tuesday Service Night, Feb. 10 at 5:30 PM:** Organizing and cleaning the church basement. Help sort through years of clutter!

Thursday Bible Study, Feb. 26 at 5:30 PM: We will begin *It's All Under Control* by Jennifer Dukes Lee, a study that helps women overcome anxiety and worry,

prioritize busy lives, find freedom in daily tasks, and release what God has

not asked them to carry. You can order your Bible study materials on Amazon, or Pat Mecham can order them for you. Cost: \$25.00.

Come be part of a welcoming group of women inspiring godly hearts together!



Help Support Safety Upgrade Projects at Our School!

Join us for a fantastic opportunity to support St. Luke's School safety improvements while having a chance to win delicious prizes! Our CEO Meat Raffle is happening NOW, and the lucky winners will be announced at the Winter Carnival, February 14 (more details coming soon)!

Raffle Prizes

Purchase your tickets anytime from now until February 14 (or until tickets run out) for a chance to win mouth-watering prizes, responsibly raised at Eight Plates Farm and processed at Coon Creek Packing in Caro (processing fees included)!

- ◆ **Ticket Price:** \$50 per ticket
- ◆ **Grand Prize:** $\frac{1}{4}$ Beef
- ◆ **Second Prize:** $\frac{1}{2}$ Hog
- ◆ **Third Prize:** CEO Gift Basket

How You Can Make a Difference

Every ticket you purchase helps fund essential safety improvements at *our* school. Investing in these projects ensures a secure environment for our students to learn and grow. Plus, you have the chance to fill your freezer with premium meat products!

- 👉 **Buy your tickets today** and join us in making St. Luke's a safer place for our children.
Thank you for your support!

