

ST. LUKE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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December
2021 NEWSLETTER

From the Pastor's Desk

"I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people."
Luke 2:10

This Advent, I hope that you will be able to join us for our midweek Advent Bible Study (see the announcement elsewhere in this newsletter for details). But even if you cannot, I hope that you'll be able to set aside some time to think about what it means to prepare ourselves for Christ.

By the time you read this, we'll all likely be neck deep in the cultural celebration of Christmas (decorations, Christmas 'muzak' in the stores, candy and cookies, etc.). But, as much as many of us may enjoy this time of year (and I do!), cultural celebrations of Christmas tend to "bury the lead", so to speak. As cliché as it may sound, observing the season of Advent can help to remind us of "the reason for the season."

Taking the time to "turn down the tinsel" for Advent helps us to focus our attention on Christ. It can also remind us that Jesus meets us in our every-day lives, even in moments of uncertainty, fear, and doubt. Such was the case for those who received visits from angels prior to the Christmas story: Zechariah (to announce the birth of John the Baptizer), Joseph, Mary, and the Shepherds.

So, even if you can't join us for our study, I invite you to walk alongside all of those who heard the original "Tidings of Comfort and Joy" about Jesus by reading their stories on your own. Copies of the materials that we'll be using to reflect on those stories will be available in the foyer during the Advent Season.

May you experience a joyous season of Advent!

Peace,



ADVENT MIDWEEK

During the Advent season, we'll meet in the chapel/lounge for "Tidings of Comfort and Joy", a reading and discussion of the four angelic announcements surrounding Jesus' birth. "Tidings of Comfort and Joy" will **start DECEMBER 1 and meet every Wednesday until Christmas with two time options: 1:00 pm or 7:00 pm.** A video synopsis of each week's study will also be posted on our Facebook page. This Advent, please consider joining us for fellowship as we explore what it means to prepare for Jesus' coming.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICES



The Family Christmas Eve Service In-person Service & (Livestream) **at 7:00 PM** is geared for our children, with music, candle lighting and Holy Communion.

The Christmas Eve Service In-person Service & (Livestream) **at 9:30 PM** offers worship with music, candle lighting and Holy Communion in a more traditional style.

ST. LUKE'S HANDBELLS Rehearsals will be held **Thursday evenings at 6:30pm in the nave.** All that is required is a desire to have fun, a willingness to make a joyful noise to the Lord and the ability to attend weekly rehearsals.

SEW FINE QUITERS will meet **Monday, Dec. 6th at 9:00am-3:00pm.** Come and go as your time provides. If possible, join us for lunch at 12noon. Lunch will be provided.

CHRISTMAS DONATIONS NEEDED for filling the Christmas bags for our St. Luke shut-in's and friends. A box will be located in the West wing for your donations. Suggested items: **Juice boxes, tissues, small notepads, hand lotion, ChapStick, hard candies, individual packs of crackers or snack items and handmade cookies.** Anyone interested in helping pack and or deliver bags are invited to meet in **Bell Hall Tuesday, Dec. 7th at 2:00pm.**

ST. LUKE ANNUAL MEETING of the Congregation, Part One will be held **Sunday, December 12, 2021, following the 10:30AM worship service.** A copy of the Agenda and the 2022 Budget will be available in the back of the nave; and for pick up, outside the church office door, in the glass foyer. If you would like a mailed copy, please call the church office.

MUSIC SOLO AND ENSEMBLES SIGN-UPS Whether you sing, play an instrument, want to perform solo or in an ensemble we want to hear from you! Open to anyone with the love of music and a willing to work on creating it. Sign-up in the West Hall or contact, Mark Pall, Organist at: pallmark1997@aol.com



"The Personnel Committee of St Luke would like to thank all of our hard working staff and encourage our congregation members to personally do likewise. Dedication during this past year has contributed greatly to the ongoing success of St. Luke and our Christian goal of ministering with kindness and care to those in need and seeking solace. Thank- you Sarah Young, Mellissa Eshelman, Chris Knaur, Dave Shade, Mark Pall, and of course, Pastor Jeff LaCrone. May 2022 be a year of personal and church growth here at St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church."

ONGOING COLLECTIONS AT ST. LUKE

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS: Jelly, Tuna Pasta Sauce, Pudding Cups, Mushroom Soup, Canned Veggies, Snacks, and Boxed Side Dishes, Pancake syrup, Cake/desert mixes.

SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS Hygiene Items in regular sizes for infants, kids, men and women are always in need. Specific needs this month are Kleenex, Band-Aids, Women's Deodorant, Razors and Shaving Cream for men and women.



THE WILLIAMSPORT MUSIC CLUB presents "*Christmas Music by Candlelight*" **Sunday, December 5, 4:00pm.** Pine St. United Methodist Church, 441 Pine St., Williamsport, PA

WILLIAMSPORT CIVIC CHORUS will present "*A Rutter Christmas*", music of John Rutter, on Friday, Dec. 17th, at 7 PM, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 142 Market St, Williamsport (entrance to parking lot on Mulberry Street). The cost is \$10 for general admission tickets, on line or presale; \$8 for a senior or student admission ticket, on line or presale; and children under 12 are free with a paying adult. Tickets at the door are \$12 for general admission and \$10 for students and seniors. More information can be found at williamsportcivicchorus.org. Partnerships received prior to December 7th will be acknowledged in the program and on the website. Please mail to WCC, PO Box 752, Williamsport, PA 17701.

CROP Walk Update Thanks to everyone for raising funds, walking at the various locations across the cash. We have raised over \$6,000 to date, and still counting. (UPDATE from the United Churches Newsletter)

REMINDERS: Office hours –
M & T 9-12, 1-3; W, TH, F 9-12
Bulletin deadline – WEDNESDAY 9:00AM
Spectrum deadline – 20th of each month
Council Packet info due – Friday 9:00AM prior to Mtg.
Office e-mail – info@stlukeweb.com

The church office will be closed Monday, Dec. 27th and Monday, Jan. 3rd while staff celebrates the Christmas season with family.



***Happy Birthday to our members
celebrating in
December:***

Lucy Brown	December 04
Madalyn Fortin	December 06
Melissa Mahler	December 09
Jere Eshleman	December 12
Krista Hiller	December 12
Marjorie Holland	December 12
Roger Wyland	December 12
Deloris Snyder	December 13
Wendy Kelsey	December 15
Alex Reed	December 15
Christian Scampone	December 18
Brenna Beck	December 20
Rebecca Jean	December 21
Charles Paris	December 21
Gerald Brown	December 23
Leah Nason	December 23
Karl Yoas	December 23
Carole Harris	December 26
Scott Seyler	December 27
Ethan Fisher	December 28
James Donnell	December 29
Ali Wyland	December 29

Happy Anniversary.....

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Labenberg 12/23/1956
Rev. & Mrs. Theodore Cockley 12/27/1970



*(We're sorry if we missed any one. If we did, please contact the office so we
can add you to our records.)*