

ST. LUKE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
1400 Market Street, Williamsport, PA, (570) 323-7309
E-Mail: info@stlukeweb.com
St. Luke Online: www.stlukeweb.com

February
2022 NEWSLETTER

From the Pastor's Desk:

How is it with your soul?

"And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

– Hebrews 10:24-26

From time to time, I am reminded of my Methodist heritage, and in particular of John Wesley, who founded the movement that eventually sprouted Methodist churches. What many people don't realize is that he was one of a few pioneers of the modern church practice of "small groups". Such groups exist within many churches today so that their members have the opportunity to fellowship and encourage one another in their faith more deeply than what typically happens with one hour a week in the pews on Sunday morning.

Wesley organized opportunities for Christians to "bring small numbers of people together (usually twelve) to pray, read the Bible and listen to exhortations, and to encourage and enjoy each other's company."* At these meetings, the question would often be asked, "How is it with your soul?" The intent behind that question was to encourage one another in Christian growth, maintain accountability, and offer a place of encouragement and rededication as a response to setbacks.

One of my hopes for this year is to establish opportunities where people can gather to fellowship and study scripture (or other relevant literature) in the pursuit of improving our relationships with one another and growing in our faith. During February, we'll be looking at the Dietrich Bonhoeffer book "Life Together" and during Lent, we'll do "Coffee and Catechism", a chance for a refresher on the basics of Lutheran faith and belief. As the year progresses, I hope to offer similar opportunities.

I hope you'll consider joining us in one of these groups. We may not ask you how it is with your soul every week, but we will seek to encourage each other and grow together in faith.



*Wilson, John P. (April 2004). "From House Church to Home Groups. *Reformed Theological Review*. 63(1):9.

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**INCLEMENT WEATHER CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENT** may be found by checking the church website (stlukeweb.com), and our FACEBOOK page.

**BOOK STUDY** What does it mean to be a Christian community? What difference does it make in the life of a believer? These questions are particularly pertinent to us as we continue to face the challenges of the pandemic. Join us for a study of Dietrich Bonhoeffer's classic work on the Christian community, *'Life Together'*. We will meet on Mondays, beginning on **January 31st and going to February 28th. There will be two-time options: noon in the chapel lounge, and 7 pm via Zoom in the evenings.** The first session will be an introduction to Bonhoeffer and the context of *'Life Together.'* The zoom link will be posted on Facebook on the day of the study. Email pastor Jeff (jefflecrone@gmail.com) or John McNassor (johnmcnassor@gmail.com) to request it if you do not have access to Facebook. Copies of the book are limited at the church office, or you may obtain your own.

**SEW FINE QUILTER's** next workday is **Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup>** in Bell Hall, from **9:00 am -3:00 pm** with lunch provided.

**CHURCH COUNCIL** will meet on **Monday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm,** in Bell Hall.

**SHAWL MINISTRY** meets for knitting and crocheting on **Tuesday, Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am-12noon, in the Chapel.** All are welcome!

**ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING, II** is set for **March 6, 2022**, with the 13<sup>th</sup> as a snow date. **\*\* Reminder that the deadline is February 14, 2022, for all Annual Reports. Report submission guidelines, please check your ministry mailbox. Thank you.**

**SEAFARERS 2021** What a success! Because of your generous gifts, we sent 46 filled satchels to the synod office. And because we had many craftswomen using their sit-down time on the hats and cowls, we sent 27 more sets to hand out to seamen who were not lucky enough to make port in December.

Needed are:

- men's sweatshirts with or without a hood and T-shirts, in sizes: M-L-XL ONLY (no seasonal, political, prints, thank you.)
- Men's socks – thermal or gym (NO ANKLE SOCKS)
- A holiday or Christmas card from YOU!
- Please remove all store tags from clothing

Please see the display table in the West Hallway, marked Seafarers.

*Thank you from the Service Ministry.*

**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 a love of music and willing to work on creating it. Sign-up in the West Hall or contact, Mark Pall, Organist at: [pallmark1997@aol.com](mailto:pallmark1997@aol.com)

**SERVING** If you would like to help serve in our 8:00 am or 10:30 am worship service(s), please contact Diane Kohler at 570-419-7085 or email [kohlerdede@gmail.com](mailto:kohlerdede@gmail.com) or Pastor Jeff at 570-323-7309.

**USHERS** Anyone interested in serving as an usher, please contact the office or email or call Nancy McCarty at: ([nmac7149@gmail.com](mailto:nmac7149@gmail.com); (570) 419-7827).

**IN THE HOSPITAL?** Please contact Sarah Young at the church office (570-323-7309) if you or a family member are in the hospital or are ill. Pastor Jeff is available for visits or phone calls, and at your request, Sarah will then contact our prayer chain leaders.

**FLOWERS AFTER THE SUNDAY SERVICE?** If you donated Altar flowers for Sunday, please feel free to take them home after the late service, or pick them up on Monday during office hours. Vases are available in the work sacristy to make smaller bouquets if you like.



**SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS** It's February, time for Valentines, hearts, and love. It's also time to open our hearts and show our love to those less fortunate in our community who are helped by The Shepherd of the Streets. Shepherd of the Streets is February 6, 2022. The Rev. Mark Brumback will be speaking and preaching Sunday in-person, at both services. to show love to our neighbors who are helped by the Shepherd of the Streets. Please help this wonderful Christian ministry with your gifts of dollars and/or these currently needed items: **deodorant for men and women, Q-tips (small packs), Kleenex, Band-Aids, soap, shampoo and conditioner for men and women, toilet paper, women's hygiene products, body lotion, hand cream, laundry pods (small packs)**. These items are collected indoors in the Bell Hall vestibule and the West Hallway.

*You will be receiving an envelope for monetary gifts. Please return by mail or the offering plate with "SOS" on the memo line.*



## ONGOING COLLECTIONS AT ST. LUKE



**\*\* VOLUNTEER NEEDED\*\*** The service committee is looking for a volunteer to regularly transport the food that is collected at the church to the food pantry on Monday or Tuesday morning. Please call Sarah Young at the church office for more details.

**FOOD PANTRY SHELVES ARE BARE! URGENTLY NEEDS** Jelly, Tuna Pasta Sauce, Pudding Cups, Mushroom Soup, Canned Veggies, Snacks, Pudding Cups, Chicken Noodle & Tomato Soup, Rice, Mac & Cheese, Microwave Popcorn, Cereal, and Boxed Side Dishes. *And anything else that is on sale!*

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**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE UPDATE** In January our very active committee discussed several issues relative to helping all staff members perform their job requirements at an optimum level. Annual reviews have been conducted with each employee, and the committee has received several excellent suggestions which could assist our St. Luke Church mission and the congregation at large. In some cases, direction for improved goals and job clarifications from Church Council is needed. Some staff suggestions are clearly under the purview of other formal committees and will be reported to the Executive and Church Council meeting. Additionally, the Personnel Committee will review all present and formal job descriptions during the coming months.

It is the feeling of our committee that during the trying times of the last two years the dedication of our staff has been exemplary. As always, kind and positive feedback is warranted in all congregational interactions with staff.

**FROM THE PRE-SCHOOL AT ST. LUKE** January has flown by! The month ended with assessments and optional parent conferences, for students moving on to Kindergarten in the Fall. February brings the themes of *Friendship & Love*. The students will be celebrating Valentine's Day on Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> and learning about Dental Health this month. Registration for next year's class will open on Feb. 1, 2022 (returning students and alumni) and for new families, registration opens on March 1, 2022. Tours are offered, please contact the Pre-school office at 570-323-2705.



### Free Test Kits

**AIDS Resource** will be offering to mail free HIV test kits to people who fit into risk categories. If someone is part of the MSM community, IDU community, or may have been at risk, please have them contact AIDS Resource for free testing immediately. Together we can end HIV. (570) 322-8448

## Code Blue Emergency Overnight Warming Center

**When:** Now - March 25, 2022

**Where:** First United Methodist Church, 604 Market Street, Williamsport  
(Across from Rite Aid)

**Time:** 9:00 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. (Doors lock at 10:00 p.m.)

*A warm place to sleep with a cot, blanket, and pillow is provided.*

*Free coffee and snacks are available.*



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**FEBRUARY 4<sup>TH</sup> AT 6:30 PM - FEBRUARY 5<sup>TH</sup> AT 6:30 PM**

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All youth in 6-12th grade and their youth leaders are invited to attend this synod youth retreat. The theme of this year will be around scripture. Experience your Creator, play winter games and find refreshment in the peace of camp in winter. The retreat is from Friday night to Saturday afternoon, but there is an option for youth and leaders to come just for the day on Saturday. The cost is \$66 (whole program) or \$45 (Saturday only). Each registered group should provide one adult (21 or over) for every seven youth and at least one adult for each gender represented. Cabin assignments will be made based on available adults and the number of youth attending. Contact Chad Hershberger at [chad@campmountluther.org](mailto:chad@campmountluther.org) with questions.

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### Sight and Sound Bus Trip

**Join us for another fun-filled day** of fellowship as we head off to Sight and Sound in Lancaster, PA to see “David”! The bus will leave from First United Methodist Church at 6:45am on Tuesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will stop for brunch at Hardee’s at 8:30am (This is not included in the ticket price.) We arrive at the theater at 10:15am for our 11:00am showtime. After which, we will enjoy a smorgasbord lunch at Bird-in-Hand Family Inn, Restaurant. The trip will include a tour of Edwards Nut and Candy Co. in Lancaster...it’s a good thing we won’t be going there on an empty stomach! Our bus returns to First United Methodist Church in Williamsport at 7:30pm. The cost of the ticket is \$130.00. This includes your transportation, the show, and the meal at the restaurant. Reservations and money are due at the office by February 8th. Please call 570-322-1110 or email [office@uclc.org](mailto:office@uclc.org) with any questions. Checks can be made out to United Churches of Lycoming County, please include your reservation information of name and contact phone number, and mailed to UCLC, 202 East Third Street, Williamsport, PA 17701. I look forward to spending this day away with each of you!

## SEAFARERS COLLECTION HITS 10TH ANNIVERSARY



*Those who helped pack the van with Seafarer Bags this year.*

In total, 733 bags were picked up from the synod office on November 10 by Seafarers International. This year marked the tenth anniversary of our first collection and in those years, the synod has donated 6,309 bags.

Director Marsh Drege commented, “What a rich connection to seafarers this synod has. Missing this year because of his recent passing was Bob Bradford who helmed the project for many years. Also missed were Office Manager Brenda Krouse and van loading extraordinaire, Bishop Barbara Collins, both of whom are instrumental in this mammoth undertaking and were needed elsewhere at that time. It’s been a decade of remarkable mission and outreach in Jesus’ name to seafarers coming from around the globe. A legacy to be proud of and grateful for.”

In 2020, Seafarers International House distributed more than 2,000 Christmas at Sea bags or “satchels” to seafarers away from home. They’re filled with little things that mean the world to a seafarer; a sweatshirt; a knitted cap; a chocolate bar; a handwritten card. These bags have made an enormous difference to people who are away from their loved ones. Find out more about Christmas-at-Sea: <https://www.sihnyc.org/christmas-at-sea>

**REMINDERS:** Office hours –  
M & T 9-12, 1-3; W, TH, F 9-12  
Bulletin deadline – WEDNESDAY 9:00AM  
Spectrum deadline – 20<sup>th</sup> of each month  
Council Packet info due – Friday 9:00AM before Mtg.  
Office e-mail – [info@stlukeweb.com](mailto:info@stlukeweb.com)



## *Happy Birthday to our members in February*

|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| Chip Edmonds         | February 02 |
| Donna Martin         | February 03 |
| Sandy Moyer          | February 06 |
| Danny Wyland         | February 06 |
| Peggy Yohn           | February 06 |
| Bonnie Cockley       | February 07 |
| Patricia Durand      | February 08 |
| Allan Husband        | February 09 |
| Lynn Shade           | February 09 |
| Erick Fortin         | February 12 |
| Domanick Young       | February 12 |
| Dylan Rhodes         | February 13 |
| Charles Duchman, Jr. | February 19 |
| Mia Clark            | February 26 |
| Laura McNassor       | February 26 |
| Trish Hershey        | February 27 |
| Kathy Borch          | February 28 |

## *Happy Anniversary.....*

Jack and Charleen Whittaker

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

