

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

APRIL

2022 NEWSLETTER

~~~~~

**From the Pastor's Desk:**

**Bring On the Light!**

*Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your father in heaven.*

*-Matthew 5:16*

Well, we survived another transition to Daylight Savings Time with minimal casualties. I know of only one couple who showed up at 9:00 am for the 8:00 am service this year. Every year, our practice of moving the clocks ahead one hour can cause problems, like forgetting to do it, or having our sleep patterns disrupted. But one of the things I greatly appreciate about this time of year is that sunlight lasts longer into the day. Of course, the days continue to get longer on their own as we move into spring, but – for me at least – it's still nice to have natural light for more of the hours during which I'm already awake.

I wonder if we often recognize how important natural light is for us. Sunlight literally helps our bodies to manufacture our own vitamin D, and it has also been linked to our general happiness. Studies have suggested that a lack of sunlight can even be a source of depression, which can make it harder for us to interact with others. Think about that: the more light we receive, the more likely we are to be able to shine in our interactions with others.

The Gospel message works in the same way. The more of a reality it is in our lives, the more likely we are to shine God's light in the lives of others through acts of service and love. Now, you may think that this is just a way for me to

encourage church attendance, and I suppose it is. In his instruction on the Ten Commandments in his small catechism, Luther directly

connected observing the Sabbath (the third commandment) with hearing the Gospel preached. And communion gives us an opportunity to physically engage with how God's promises nourish and enlighten us. Worship is a very important way for us to "charge up" on the light of Christ.

But Christian fellowship, personal and group study of the scriptures, and acts of service are also ways in which we absorb and then reflect the light of Christ. Our bodies thirst for light wherever we can get it, but so do our souls.

April begins with a continuation of our journey towards Jerusalem in the Cross as the season of Lent continues. Thanks be to God, that journey does not end at the cross, but with resurrection light. May the season of Easter be a time where you both experience and shine forth that light.

~~~~~  
*Given the decline in COVID transmission and in light of the revised CDC guidance, St. Luke's is lifting masking recommendations at this time.
We respect each individual's choice regarding masking while participating in church functions.*



Midweek Lenten Study: Coffee and Catechism

Following the success of our Advent Bible study, we will once again be offering midweek studies during Lent. As with the Lenten study, we'll have two-time options: **1 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Wednesdays during Lent (ending April 6).** We will go through Luther's small catechism as a refresher (or perhaps for some, and introduction) to the basics of Lutheran faith. Join us this Lenten season!

Holy Week services Maundy Thursday (**April 14th**) and Good Friday (**April 15th**) will be held at 7:00 pm, in-person & online.

Easter Sunday services (**April 17th**) 8:00 am & 10:30 am in-person and online (10:30am).

COFFEE HOURS are scheduled for the 1st Sunday of the month, after the late service, and the 3rd Sunday after the early service in Bell Hall. Please see the sign-up board in the West Hall.

SEW FINE QUILTER'S next workday is **Monday, April 4th** in Bell Hall, from **9:00 am -3:00 pm**. Come join the fun! Lunch provided.

PVC will meet **Tuesday, April 5th at 2:00pm** in the Library. (The 3:00pm Service meeting will be in the Lounge.)

CHURCH COUNCIL will meet on **Monday, April 11th at 7:00 pm**, in Bell Hall.

SHAWL MINISTRY meets for knitting and crocheting on **Tuesday, April 19th** from **9:30 am-12noon, in the Chapel**. All are welcome!



NEWSLETTER UPDATED Please note that the deadline for the Church Newsletter has changed! **The new deadline is now the 15th for each month.** Thank you.

RICHARD E. SWARTZ MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Applications are available for pickup at the church office. Applications are also located outside the office, in the glass foyer.

THE ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP

Online Scholarship Application - Applications are available. Complete eligibility requirements and the online application at thriventcharitable.com/grants/scholarships. All applications and necessary documents must be received by Thrivent Charitable no later than **April 29, 2022**. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered.

THE SERVICE MINISTRY needs volunteers and donations for their upcoming project, *Bagged Lunch to Go* for the Sojourner Truth Ministries in Williamsport. We will be making our bagged lunches in Bell Hall, on **Saturday, April 23rd at 9:00am** it takes about 1 hour. Volunteers are needed to prepare the 60 bags. Donations needed: **Bakers-** to make cookies or store purchased (4 to a bag); **Snack items-** individual bags items, such as chips, crackers, gummies, etc.;

Volunteers to make- PP&J sandwiches, ham & cheese, and chicken salad sandwiches; **Volunteers** -put the lunch bags together. If interested in helping, please contact Marilyn Eshleman at 570-322-5202.

THE ST. LUKE PR-SCHOOL
From the month of MARCH 2022



We had a calendar full of fun-filled activities to promote reading and our 100th day of school! We also celebrated reading with Dr. Sesuss' Birthday!

- One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish (Wear something **RED** and/or **BLUE**)
- The Cat in the HAT (Wear a HAT and/or STRIPES)
- **Green** Eggs and Ham (Wear something **Green**)
- The Foot Book and/or Fox in Socks (Wear a pair of Crazy or your FAVORITE socks)
- We enjoyed Chapel time with Pastor Jeff
- Guest readers in the classrooms for "Read Across America"
- We took advantage of the nice weather and went out for walks in the fresh air!



SAVE THE DATE for our Annual Yard Sale on Friday, June 17 & Saturday, June 18! More information to come.

The Pre-School at St. Luke accepts registrations for three-, four-, and five-year-old children. Children must be three years old before August 31. (Non-refundable Registration fee is \$50.) If you would like a tour or more information, please contact Cindy Stroble at 570-323-2705.

Serving in April

Altar Care: Charles Mahler

Ushers: April 7: Charles Mahler & Keith Wood

April 10: Bob Borch & Keith Wood

April 17: Bob Borch & Brad Nason

April 24: Charles Mahler & Brad Nason

(See next pg.)

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 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; (570) 419-7827).

CML EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE

APRIL 15

Register for summer camp at Mount Luther by midnight on April 15, 2022, to get a discount on your summer camp registration! Or, if you bring a friend to camp who's never been there, you can get 25% off your registration fee. Program information at www.campmountluther.org/summer. Register online at <https://www.campmountluther.org/online-registration/>

~~~~~

### **United Churches' News 2022**

#### **Ladies: Save the Date!**

The First United Methodist Church is hosting a women's workshop from 9:00 until 12:00 on Saturday, April 30, in the church's Living Water Café. The address is 602 S. Market St., Muncy. The leader will be Pastor Susan Halverstadt.

The theme is "Awaken Our Hearts to Prayer." The scripture focus is Matthew 6:9–13. The format will be a presentation, discussion, and individual exercises. We will explore deepening and expanding our prayer life, letting Jesus show us the way. We'll learn how digging into The Lord's Prayer can take us closer to the path of His way of life.

The Rev. Dr. Halverstadt earned a B.S. degree in Education/Music from Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI; a B.S. degree in Nutrition from Park College, Parkville, MO; a Master of Divinity degree from St. Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, MO; and a D.C. from Cleveland Chiropractic College, Kansas City, MO.

She serves as pastor of Faxon-Kenmar United Methodist Church, Williamsport, and is an Elder of the Susquehanna Conference of the United Methodist Church. In recent years she has led retreats and workshops in the Susquehanna Conference on "women and faith" topics.

To register, contact the church office (570-546-8030, [office@firstumcmuncy.org](mailto:office@firstumcmuncy.org)). Registration runs from March 28 to April 22, on a first-come, first-served basis.

\*\*\*

#### **Suicide Prevention Walk**

The South Williamsport Suicide Prevention Walk will be held at the South Williamsport Recreation Complex from 12noon to 3:00pm on April 23. For more information, please email [director@uclc.org](mailto:director@uclc.org)

\*\*\*

## Food Pantry

Mona Rundio, Coordinator 570-322-1657

[UCFPDirector@outlook.com](mailto:UCFPDirector@outlook.com)

First, I would like to give a huge “Thank you” and hug to the churches that continue to support us and the community at this time!! The clients we help are continually letting us know how thankful they are for you for being such thoughtful and loving people!

Second, when trying to live the 3 E’s (Engage, Encourage, and Exceed) of life, you may ask yourself, “How and where does one start to live this way?” ENGAGE in giving to others, ENCOURAGE them of their wealth/love amongst the world, then EXCEED by continually thinking and praying for all the people around you. We then are given what we may need and are thanked beyond belief from Our Lord above!

A hospitable life is a loving life of giving, contributing, and remaining humble. This helps those around us acknowledge and wake up to learning a Christ-like life to live. We are here to provide food to those in need during the hard times in their life, and in so doing, it will help keep them thriving. Even after you contribute to the community, continue to pray for those you helped so that they can, in return, do the same for those around them.

We pray and hope that the giving keeps on going and growing around our community! When shopping for yourself, keep in mind those that are down and out, in many ways. Then pick some items up for them and their family to donate. If you can’t come up with an idea of what to get, we do take monetary donations/gift cards to hand out to them. These gift cards provide the means for a family to supplement their food with fresh produce, meat, and dairy products. We give out one card per family, per month.



Food Pantry  
Donations Needed

At this time, we are in need of these products: • **canned meats/fruits/veggies • microwave meals/soups • juices /drinks • cereal/oatmeal • cake or muffin mixes/frostings • jelly/jams • healthy snacks • ketchup/mustard/mayo**



\*\*\*

**Rise Up Bakery**  
**Marty McCormick, Coordinator 570-295-8434**  
[riseupvillagebakery@gmail.com](mailto:riseupvillagebakery@gmail.com)



**Who:** Rise Up Village Bakery's goal is to assist returning citizens (ex-offenders) in being fully restored to the community. By training and working at the Rise Up Village Bakery, these individuals will gain the necessary skills to become productive members of our community. With their confidence and feelings of self-worth renewed, these men and women will Rise Up to discover they are "capable of experiencing a new life of exciting possibilities!"

**Where:** We are baking in the kitchen at the New Covenant United Church of Christ, 202 E. Third Street.

**When:** We are currently baking on Mondays. We hope to expand our time in the kitchen as the demand for our bakery products grows.

**What:** We currently are working at perfecting our first products: white and whole wheat sandwich breads. We will be adding quick breads, muffins, and other delights as we develop our product line. We will soon be ready to take orders.

**Help Needed:** There are many ways that you can help make this new life possible for our returning citizens: volunteer in the kitchen, take orders at your church or neighborhood, share with us your ideas, recipes, and expertise, tell others about the bakery, support the bakery by sending a check (earmarked for the Rise Up Bakery) to United Churches of Lycoming County. Please be in contact with me at the phone or email above because it "takes a whole village" to Rise Up a bakery!

*Let us give thanks to God for this opportunity to honor and glorify Him through our service to the "least of these." (Matthew 25: 31-46)*

\*\*\*

**Shepherd of the Streets**  
**Rev. Mark Brumbach**  
**570-322-6538**  
[shepherd@uclc.org](mailto:shepherd@uclc.org)

Recently I was asked, “Is the Shepherd denying people services?” The honest answer to that question is, “absolutely yes.” Everyday we deny people services because they come to us asking for services that we do not/cannot provide. We do not help with utilities, rent, clothing, shoes, ID cards, birth certificates, bus passes, bus tickets, or a host of other things. We simply do not possess the resources, financial or otherwise, to meet all of the requests that come to us each week. If, for example, we started helping with rent and utilities we would deplete our available funds within a very short time. Some might observe that “in the past” the Shepherd helped with lots of needs and that observation would be correct. The Shepherd did at one-time help with a broader range of needs, but that was at a time when there were not as many helping services and agencies available. We have a client who has proclaimed on more than one occasion, “I hate that new shepherd because he never gives me anything!” The truth is that we have often had to say, “no” to this particular client because he has often asked us for things that we do not supply. The rest of the story is that whenever the request has fallen within our helping areas we have indeed helped with his need.

So, what help does the Shepherd currently offer to those in need? The Shepherd Ministry concentrates on four areas of assistance. First, we help people to meet the cost of their prescription medications. We can help with the full cost of medications or with copayments. We also fund eye exams and prescription eyeglasses when clients have no other means of caring for their vision. Second, we help with funding for medical travel. Clients must provide proof of their appointment on the day of, or the day prior to, their appointment. We then give them funds for fuel based on the mileage to and from the appointment. Third, we supply monthly hygiene kits filled with whatever items we have to give. Finally, we help clients to receive needed emergency dental procedures and oral surgeries through a grant from United Way. Recently we have added a “blessing table” in our entryway that is intended to supply some basic food needs.

Our clients can request a hygiene kit every 30 days. Why do we provide these kits? Our hope is that the kits enable those who receive them to free up a bit of money in their monthly household budgets. Each item we provide is an item that they do not need to purchase. Listed below are items that are currently needed. It is amazing how our shelves fill up and then quickly empty.



**• Women's and Men's Deodorant • Women's and Men's Body Wash • Women's and Men's Shampoo • Women's and Men's Conditioner • Shave Cream • Q-Tips (small packs) • Paper Towels • Laundry pods (small packs) • Kleenex • Hand Cream • Dish Detergent • Body Lotion • Bath Towels**

Monetary gifts are always on our list of needs. The Shepherd of the Streets ministry receives no government funding. It is through the faithfulness of many individuals and local congregations and through our faithful stewardship that the needs of many in our community continue to be met.

Please be mindful of our mailing address as you support the Shepherd ministry through your financial gifts. Please send all correspondence to our P. O. Box at:

Shepherd of the Streets P. O. Box 2184 Williamsport, PA 17703 Please do not mail anything to our Park Ave. address, or our former address on Center St., because it will be marked as undeliverable. If you would like to visit us or contact us via telephone, our physical address is 320 Park Ave., Williamsport, PA. and our telephone number is (570) 322-6538.



*“One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.” -Proverbs 11:24, 25*



## ***HAPPY BIRTHDAY.....***

|                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| Justin Wood         | April 02 |
| Chelsey Wood        | April 02 |
| Jessie Young        | April 04 |
| Nancy Long          | April 07 |
| Gayle Peters-Coates | April 07 |
| Halle Clark         | April 09 |
| Brett Clark         | April 10 |
| Laura Good          | April 10 |
| Eddie Good          | April 10 |
| Terry Belles        | April 12 |
| Lucas Seyler        | April 13 |
| Mary Jane Webster   | April 18 |
| Marilyn Eshleman    | April 21 |
| Ed Kelley           | April 25 |
| Brad Nason          | April 25 |
| Chuck Yohn          | April 26 |
| Karen Bergren       | April 27 |
| Hank Knaus          | April 28 |

## ***Happy Anniversary.....***

|                           |          |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Borch, Bob & Kathy        | April 04 |
| Tignor, Richard & Lore    | April 10 |
| Belles, Terry & Cynthia   | April 19 |
| Reasner, James & Margaret | April 25 |
| Lamade, Daniel & Barbara  | April 27 |

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

