

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

JULY 2022

The Spectrum

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#### From the Pastor's Desk:

#### On Vacation?

*"If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast."*

-Psalm 139:9-10

As the weather improves, many of us have already planned our summer vacations. Whether they are packed with activities or simply a chance to "veg out on the beach", vacations provide us an opportunity to recharge our batteries.

If our vacation keeps us out of town on a Sunday, we might be tempted to take a vacation from worship while we are getting away from everything else.



As surprising as this might seem coming from a pastor, there are times in which a break might be helpful. Volunteer burnout, conflicts, and other problems can make worship a draining experience.

And if we find worship draining, we probably *should* take a step back and spend some time alone with God and others we trust to figure out why.

But here's the thing: for most of us a 'worship vacation' is probably due more to just not wanting to make it a priority. With that in mind, here are some thoughts that I hope will inspire you to find a place to worship while you are away this summer.

- **Worshipping elsewhere reminds us of the global nature of the church.** The communion table we share is bigger than the one in our own nave.
- **Worshipping with complete strangers** can be a powerful way to remember that we are part of a larger church.
- **Visiting another church gives us the opportunity to experience something new.** Whether it's a Lutheran Church with a different style of worship or a completely different denomination (or independent church), experiencing something different can expand our understanding of who God is. And on a similar line of thought ...
- **Visiting another congregation can often lead to discovering some really great ideas.** Occasionally the new things we experience might be something we want to try ourselves! If you have this experience, please feel free to share them (along with worship bulletins) with me or anyone on Music and Worship!
- **Worshipping in a new church gives us insight on what it is like to be an outsider.** When you're the outsider, the way a congregation makes you feel welcome (or not) can be very educational. If you share those lessons back home, it could help make St. Luke an even more hospitable place than it already is. Through our collective experiences at other churches, we can learn a lot about how to welcome visitors into St. Luke.

I hope you'll consider worshipping on vacation if you get the chance this summer. After all, God never takes a vacation from us. Blessings!



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The Church Office will be closed for the Independence Day Holiday on Monday, July 4th. If you need emergency pastoral care during this time, please call Pastor LeCrone at 570-220-3631.

Serving in July

Altar Care: TBA

Ushers: Samuel Mahler & Bob Larson

July 3rd Lector: Barbara Coates; **Comm. Helpers:** Marilyn Eshleman & Charles Mahler Mark

July 10th Lector: Scott Seyler; **Comm. Helpers:** Mark & Karen Bergren

July 17th Lector: Jessie Young; **Comm. Helpers:** Dan Lamade & Patty Durand

July 24 Lector: Sue Duchman; **Comm. Helpers:** Charles Mahler & Marilyn Eshleman

July 31st Lector: Ray Schreckengast; **Comm. Helpers:** Mark & Karen Bergren

SERVING If you would like to help serve in our 8:00 am or 10:30 am (9:30 am during the summer) 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).



UPDATE from July through September there will be only one Coffee Hour each month and it will be held in Bell Hall. The Coffee Hour will be immediately following the 9:30 AM service on the first Sunday of each month. An additional Coffee Hour following the 8 AM service on the third Sunday of the month will resume in October. Please see the sign-up board in the West Hall.

Let's get together over the summer!

With no Sunday School, no Bible studies, and many ministries not meeting during the summer months, summer is a great time to meet for a cup of coffee, or even an "adult beverage"! Pastor Jeff will be at

BuzzSaw Coffee (in the Pajama Factory) at **1 p.m. on Thursday June 30** and at **New Trail Brewing Co.** at **6:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 3**. The conversation will



be open-ended, but discussion on questions and topics related to the intersection of faith and life are encouraged! Information on further dates and times will be posted in the Sunday bulletin and on the St. Luke Facebook page! Join us, and feel free to bring friends!



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

St. Luke will host and participate in an ecumenical VBS program this summer, with as many as 7 city churches on **Sunday, July 10th – Thursday, July 14th from 6-8pm each evening at St. Luke Lutheran Church**. "Rocky Railway" is this year's VBS theme for kids ages 4-12 and special abilities adults. Registration forms are available at the back of the church and are **due by Sunday, July 3rd**.

General volunteers are needed for VBS, a signup sheet is available in the West Hall, or you may contact the church office. Please note that clearances will be required for all volunteers, so all interested parties should sign up ASAP in order to start the clearance process. (*Participating Churches: Christ Episcopal, First Church of Christ Disciples, New Covenant UCC, St. John's-Newberry UM, St. Luke and St. Mark's Lutheran, Sojourner Truth Ministries and Trinity Episcopal.*)



THE SHAWL MINISTRY will not meet during July and August. See you in the Fall!

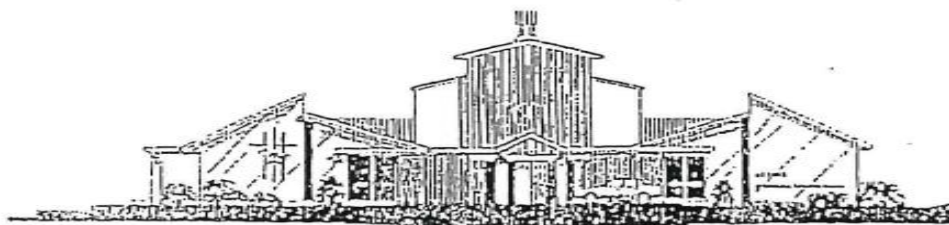
SEW FINE QUILTERS Two summer quilt days are scheduled for **Monday, July 25th and Aug. 15th from 9:00 am -3:00 pm in Bell Hall.** Come and go as your time provides and if possible, join us for a provided lunch at noon.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS for the St. Luke Blood Drive
Friday, August 12th from 1pm-6pm in Bell Hall.

SAVE THE DATE **September 25, 2022**

St. Luke Church will be celebrating two important events: The 15th anniversary of the ordination of Pastor Jeff LeCrone AND the 125th anniversary of St. Luke Lutheran Church.



ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

FROM THE PRE-SCHOOL

The annual Yard Sale for the Pre-School at St. Luke was a great success! Many treasures were found; goodies were purchased and fun was had by all!

Thank you to all of the members and parents who helped make this event another fabulous fundraiser! When we do things for the children, benefits come to all!

REMINDERS: Office hours – M & T 9-12, 1-3; W, TH, F 9-12

Bulletin 9:00 am – WEDNESDAY 9:00am

Spectrum deadline – **15th of each month**

Council Pack 9:00 am due – Friday 9:00 am before Mtg.

Office e-mail – info@stlukeweb.com



HAPPY BIRTHDAY.....

Nancy McCarty	July 01
Dave Masden	July 02
Carolyn Miller	July 02
Elizabeth Good	July 05
Jay Nau	July 09
Ross Mahler	July 13
Stephanie Confer	July 16
Wilson Durand	July 16
Patrick Fisher	July 16
Marian Schaefer	July 16
Jeff LeCrone	July 16
Allison Bloom	July 17
Jim Labenberg, Jr.	July 17
Douglas Durand	July 19
Jack Whittaker	July 19
Cyle Hiller	July 21
Bill Liptak	July 28
Janna Seyler	July 30

Happy Anniversary.....

Bergren, Mark & Karen	July 11
McNassor, John & Laura	July 17

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





Upper Susquehanna Synod Events

Synod Assembly was this past weekend, with the biggest news that we have elected a new bishop, Pastor Craig Miller, who will start on September 1, 2022.

August 8-12, 2022: ELCA Churchwide Assembly:

The 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will be held in Columbus, Ohio, August 8-12, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. The theme is *Embody the Word*. The ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the primary decision-making body of the church, is a process of communal spiritual discernment. When the ELCA Churchwide Assembly convenes, its voting members meet with confidence in God's grace around word and water, wine and bread, to carry on their work on behalf of the entire church. Over the course of the assembly, voting members:

- Hear reports and review the work of churchwide officers, leaders and units;
- Receive and consider proposals from synod assemblies;
- Elect officers, board members and other leaders as specified by the constitution or bylaws;
- Establish ELCA churchwide policy;
- Worship together;
- Adopt a budget; and
- Conduct other business related to the ELCA churchwide organization.

The Upper Susquehanna Synod's voting members are: Bishop Collins, VP Holly Fry, Youth Rep. Taylor Brown, Young Adult Rep. Ali Wyland, Diane Bubb, Ray Huff, Rev. Gary Schaeffer and Rev. Tormod Svensson.

August 18, 2022: Next Region 8 Racial Justice Training

We are called to be a church that embraces each person and confronts racial, ethnic, cultural, religious, age, gender, familial, sexual orientation, physical, personal and class barriers that can manifest as unjust treatment, inequalities, exclusion, and violence. The ELCA's Region 8 is committed to equipping leaders to recognize and understand the complexities and implications of racism and racial issues and is offering training in the areas of anti-racism and racial justice for leaders in partnership with synods, congregations, associations, and social service agencies.

Region 8's Racial Justice Training equips leaders (rostered and lay) to face the challenges of racism in a diverse, complex and changing world by providing tools and resources that foster healthy and holy conversations. Each workshop addresses these aspects of racism:

- 1) Talking about Race: language and vocabulary
- 2) History and systemic racism in the United States, and
- 3) How to begin conversations and actions in your ministry context.

Each training is offered on Zoom using a combination of instruction and small group conversation. Facilitators will represent the region to the extent possible, spearheaded by the Reverend Carla Christopher Wilson. Cost is \$25 per person; however, if cost is a barrier, please contact Marty Shifflett at mshifflett@lss-elca.org, or 717-652-1852, ext. 115. Because we want to make this training as accessible to as many people as possible, if two people from a congregation register, additional participants (beyond 2) from that congregation may attend at no cost. Those additional participants are required to register by contacting Marty Shifflett.

Region 8 is comprised of the following eight synods: Northwest PA, Southwest PA, Allegheny, Lower Susquehanna, Upper Susquehanna, Delaware/Maryland, Metro DC, and West Virginia/Western Maryland.

Racial Justice Training Opportunities:

- Thursday, August 18, 2022, 11AM-4PM
- Monday, November 7, 2022, 10AM-3PM

To register: [Region 8 Trainings - Lower Susquehanna Synod \(lss-elca.org\)](https://lss-elca.org/region-8/trainings)

Attending this training fulfills the ELCA churchwide assembly's directive that rostered ministers participate in racial justice training every two years.

CELEBRATION OF BISHOP BARBARA J. COLLINS

Join us as we celebrate the last six years of ministry of **Rev. Barbara J. Collins** as our bishop. A pizza party will be held at Camp Mount Luther on **Saturday, August 27, 2022, starting at noon - 4pm**. Reservations will be taken at Synod Assembly and will be available online soon. In addition, the synod is providing Bishop Collins with two gifts, one for her and her husband and a monetary gift to Camp Mount Luther (again, at her request). If you or your congregation would like to add to that monetary gift, you can send a contribution to the synod office, the camp, or donate on the synod website.

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

Brandon Park Summer Concert Series

Join us on **July 24th at the Bandshell** for the Brandon Park Summer Concert Series from 6 pm - 8 pm. Free concerts are hosted by the City of Williamsport Recreation Department. Bands every Sunday. **July 24th -Celtic Wood and Wires A** 5-member acoustic playing traditional songs & tunes from Ireland, Scotland & a bit of Appalachian.



ST. MARK'S will be hosting a "Meet and Greet" from our Missionary to Liberia, the Rev. Linda Seyenkudo (Pr. Linda) on **Wednesday, July 27, 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall at St. Mark's (142 Market Street, Williamsport)**. We cordially invite all rostered leaders and churches in our conference to join us. There will be an opportunity to meet Pr. Seyenkudo, ask questions with regard to Liberia and her ministry, and share refreshments.

MOUNT LUTHER



Week 3: Family Camp

Jul 5 – Jul 8

Programs this week include:

Family Camp is a fun-filled half-week program (**July 5-8**) for families to reconnect with God and others away from the hustle and bustle of daily life. This year, we'll study God's Boundless Love as we also celebrate

ADVENT IN JULY.

Family Pick-A-Day allows you to come for a day of adventure during our Family Camp. We'll plan a special activity on **July 6 and 7** and announce it online.

Week 4: Pick A Day, Elective Explosion

Jul 10 – Jul 15

Programs this week include:

Pick-A-Day Camp is great for campers to experience Mount Luther for their first time and choose how many days to attend from **July 11-15**.

Elective Explosion allows you to pick what you want to do during a special session each day (**July 10-15**). We'll have electives themed around water, crafts, sports, Legos, nature, sewing, singing, folk music, and drama.

Week 5: Wild Camps, Mini Base Camps, SALT **Jul 17 – Jul 22**

Programs this week include:

Mini Pioneer Base Camp is three days and two nights (**July 17-19**) of camp staying in your cabin at night.

Wild Pioneers (**July 17-22**) allows you to do all our cool camp activities plus explore forests and creatures who call this place home, creating field notebooks for notes, drawings, photos, and memories

Mini Junior Base Camp is three days and two nights (**June 26-28 or July 17-19**) of camp staying in your cabin at night.

Wild Juniors gives you a week (**July 17-22**) to live in God's incredible creation. Learn about fire building, outdoor cooking, animal and plant identification, and sleep under the stars. Bring a digital camera to take photographs of some of the items you see.

Wild Intermediates gives you a week (**July 17-22**) to learn more about our natural environment while hiking to new places, studying nature, and sleeping under the stars.

SALT (Service and Learning Training) is our week-long program (**July 17-22**) to do service work and learning. Campers will develop leadership, planning, and management skills. Staff will serve as mentors and coaches for the campers.

Week 6: Off-Site Week **Jul 24 – Jul 28**

We will be out in congregations with our Off-Site program. You can read more here: <https://www.campmountluther.org/offsite/>

BUS TRIP TO SIGHT AND SOUND

A bus trip to see the show **David** at the Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA is being organized by Cheryl Williams, of St. Mark's Lutheran Church. This trip is being planned for **Wednesday, September 14, at 11:00 a.m.**

While the bus will be pulling out around 6:00 AM, the early start will certainly be well worth it! Bus fare, show ticket, and dinner are all included in the price (roughly \$130-\$150 depending on the number attending). If interested, please contact Cheryl Williams at (570) 327-1627.



Rise Up Village Bakery



Mission and Vision

Our mission is to provide training in baking skills and to offer support and guidance for individuals involved in the criminal justice system. Our vision for the graduates of our program is that they will be able to secure gainful employment and become productive members of our community.

Update

We have been in operation since February and are now working with our first two trainees. Both are very cooperative, eager to learn, and are meeting expectations well. We presently have a volunteer staff of four (Marty, Wendy, Perry, and Jennifer). We currently are working only one day a week but hope to expand as our customer base grows. Although our product line is growing slowly, we have done well with our first two breads: white and whole wheat sandwich breads. Other breads are in the experimental stage and will be available soon. Jennifer is taking charge of our “pastry division”. Under her careful instructions, we have begun baking chocolate chip cookies and blueberry muffins. Yum!

Financial Operation

Our primary sources of funding are contributions and sales of our baked goods. We anticipate that someday our sales will not only cover our daily expenses but provide needed funds for the expansion of our program. We realize that when we need a bigger facility we will have to also rely on contributions and grant funding.

Marketing

Word of mouth has been our primary form of publicity and marketing to this point. SO please spread the word of the good work we are doing!!

Our next level of marketing is to establish some regular customers at churches, clubs, organizations, and businesses. If your group would like to order on a regular basis (weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly) or for special occasions, please contact us. All we would need from you is one person in your group to accept the responsibility of taking orders and collecting money. Please call us for details.

Ordering and Pick-Up Information

Ordering: To order our baked goods you may call Marty @ 570-295-8434 or email us at riseupvillagebakery@gmail.com You may also stop in at the New

Covenant United Church of Christ, 202 East Third Street. We are currently only there on Mondays, and we may not be able to fill your order that day unless we have extras. But at least you can meet us, see our operation, and order for the following baking day.

Pick up: Pick-up time is usually available between 2 and 3 PM. Let us know if those times won't work for you. If baking/cooling is done earlier or later, we will let you know by phone. Delivery is available for group orders.

Appreciation of our Customers and Supporters

We want our customers and financial contributors to know that we greatly appreciate your generous support. Without you, this program would not be able to carry out its mission. So a big THANK YOU!!!

Marty McCormick,
Coordinator
Rise Up Village Bakery

Vacation Bible School



Hughesville Friends Church will be holding their Soccer-based **Vacation Bible School during the week of August 1st through the 5th in the evening from 5:30 (check-in time) to 8:30 PM.** We are offering it for kids, PreK-6th Grade (Kids entering 6th Grade.). Registration can be found on Hughesville Friends Church Website (www.hughesvillefriends.org), on our FaceBook page, or by calling 570-584-2686.

STAFF AT ST. LUKE



Pastor Jeffrey LeCrone, Pastor
Email: info@stlukeweb.com



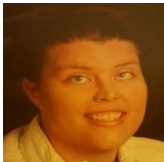
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