

ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
***** 1400 MARKET ST., WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701 *****
E-Mail: info@stlukeweb.com
St. Luke Online: www.stlukeweb.com

2022 AUGUST NEWSLETTER

From the Pastor's Desk:

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"

-God (as found in Isaiah 43:19)

At a church I used to associate with, someone – let's call him Phil - once asked me why another church in the community seemed to attract so many more people than our church did. While I wasn't extremely familiar with the other church, I offered what I did know as suggestions: they had altered their worship style to one that was more accessible to unchurched people. They offered strong volunteer-led ministries, most notably offering programming for children and youth. They had a strong small groups network that helped to strengthen both fellowship and personal faith growth. In general, they were willing to change their status quo – the "way we've always done it" – in order to reach more people.

Phil stood silent for a moment, appearing to mull my suggestions. Finally, the response came: "Yeah, but how come their church attracts so many people and ours doesn't?" I was confident my answer had been heard, but that it had been ignored. My suspicion was that these were not ideas Phil was willing to try, so he simply asked again, hoping for a different answer. Like the church council in the above cartoon, Phil desired transformation (i.e. growth), but only if it could be achieved without appreciable change.

Back then, I was convinced that growth would not be possible without significant change. I remain convinced of that many years later. However, I have come to



think differently about the question we should be asking when we consider that change. I used to think, like Phil, that the important question was “What should we do to attract more people?” But years of ministry (not to mention a recent Bible Study led at Synod Assembly in June), have led me to think that the relevant question is not “What should we do”, but “Who are we”?

Ultimately, the church is not a business with the goal of attracting more customers. It is instead a community of people who are led by the Holy Spirit to proclaim – and to live – the good news of Jesus Christ. As such, any conversation about ways the church needs to change should begin with the question: “What does it mean to be a spirit-led disciple of Jesus?” That question might still eventually lead us to make changes to our worship, our ministries, and our way of relating to one another, but if we make those changes just to fill the pews and pay the bills, we will be working with backwards priorities. Instead, any growth that we see should be directly related to the fact that we are being faithful to who we are as disciples of Christ.

Change is part of divine creativity. New things come from God all the time. We are sometimes surprised at that, though maybe we shouldn’t be. As tradition-loving as Lutherans tend to be, we shouldn’t forget that change (namely the reformation) is foundational to our existence as a denomination.

So ... as we consider the changes that God may be calling us to make at St. Luke, let us continue to ask ourselves the question, “Who are we?”



FROM THE OFFICE Sarah Young will be out of the office the week of August 1st. During office work hours Pastor Jeff will assist you. AFTER hours: If you are in need of emergency pastoral care, please call Pastor LeCrone directly at 570-220-3631.

Serving in August

Altar Care: Cindy Belles

Ushers: Bill Merkel & Mark Bergren

Aug. 7th Lector: Marilyn Eshleman; **Comm. Helpers:** Marilyn Eshleman & Charles Mahler

Aug. 14th Lector: Susan Horn; **Comm. Helpers:** Dan Lamade & Patty Durand

Aug. 21st Lector: Charles Mahler; **Comm. Helpers:** Marilyn Eshleman & Charles

Aug. 28th Lector: Cheryl Newburg; **Comm. Helpers:** Nancy Wood & TBA

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).



August 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.

BLOOD DRIVE The St. Luke Blood Drive will be held **Friday, August 12th from 1:00 pm-6:00 pm in Bell Hall.**



Let's get together over the summer!

Our Sunday evening brewery session get-togethers proved a time to socialize and have informal and open conversations about issues of faith! Our next get-togethers are as follows: **New Trail Brewery at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 14th.** For Sunday, you can either eat before you come or choose to get something at the permanent on-site food truck (please note, Real Taste Mexican closes at 6pm. Get your food order early). Join us and, as always, feel free to invite friends!

***UPDATE** *We are suspending the coffee get-togethers for the time being due to low attendance. If there is any interest in reviving them (or suggestions on a time or location that may work better), please contact Pastor Jeff.*



SCHOOL KITS NEEDED Requests for School Kits are coming in faster than Lutheran World Relief can keep up. Let's take advantage of summer sales and send in our goal of 55 this year. Again, backpacks are being made by St. Luke volunteers. We are asking you to purchase the supplies listed below and bring them to the church by **September 18th.**

- 70 sheet notebooks of ruled paper, 8"x 10 1/2"
- Black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- 30-centimeter ruler or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other.
- Pencil sharpeners
- Blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades)
- Black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
- Box of 16 or 24 crayons

SEW FINE QUILTERS A summer work day is scheduled for **Monday, 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.



Calling all Quilters, Crafters, Crocheters, and Knitters!!!

St. Luke Lutheran Church will be hosting the second Project Linus Annual *Make a Blanket Day* on **Saturday, September 24th, from 9 am to 3 pm.** Lunch and Snacks will be provided. Last year 16 volunteers made 70 blankets for our local Chapter.

The Project Linus Susquehanna Valley Chapter is a 100% volunteer nonprofit organization that provides love, a sense of security, warmth, and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need, through the gifts of bright, new, handmade washable blankets, quilts, and afghans. In our local area, these blankets are distributed to UMPC Williamsport, Muncy Valley, Jersey Shore, and Lock Haven Hospitals. In addition, we deliver to Wise Options for Women, Family Promise, Warrior Run School District, Daniel's closet, Social Services, and police and fire departments.

In 2021, 800 blankets were distributed in our area. The need continues to grow as the weather turns colder and children are forced to sleep in their coats because the family can't afford heat

Once again, we need help in assembling and hand tying quilts, cutting and tying fleece blankets, and sewing together granny square blankets for the children. We are also accepting completed blankets that day to take to the local chapter.

If you can help, please call Dawn Nau at 503-686-4968. Thank you.



!!! 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.



ONGOING COLLECTIONS AT ST. LUKE

FOOD PANTRY SHELVES NEED: Updated- 7/18

Food:

Cereal and Oatmeal (especially the individual packs)
Mac & Cheese (especially microwaveable for kids this summer)
Soups (especially microwaveable for kids this summer)
Canned Fruit
Applesauce
Hamburger / Chicken / Tuna Helper
Tuna and other canned meats
Beef Stew
Ramen Noodles
Noodles and Pasta
Canned Vegetables

Snacks, drinks, and other goods:

Pickles and Olives
Healthy Snacks
Pancake Mix and Syrup
Boxed Milk
Vegetable Oil
Desert Mixes
Tea / Coffee / Cocoa
Peanut butter and Jelly (especially grape)
Juices (16 oz/less)
Jello and Pudding
Condiments – Ketchup – Mustard – Relish – Mayonnaise

Pantry Days and Hours:

Monday: 9 a.m.-11 a.m. for donations/stocking/deliveries

SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS needed:

Laundry pods (smaller household packs)
Dish soap and hand soap
Sunscreen (child & adult)
Men's and Women's body wash
Shampoo and Conditioner
Baby wash Baby shampoo

Children's toothbrushes & Children's toothpaste

Shaving cream
Bath towels, Paper towels
***Bars of Dove soap**
Baby diapers size 3 and up

Upcoming COMMUNITY EVENTS

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 their FaceBook page, or by calling 570-584-2686.



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.

CML ANNUAL DANDELION TRAIL RUN

Saturday, September 3, 2022 – 9 am



The Dandelion Trail Run is a 5 and 10-kilometer trail run. The race is an entry-level trail race on Mount Luther grounds with proceeds going to the camp. The start time for the race is 9:00 a.m. Runners decide on race day if they want to do a 5k or 10K (a double loop of the 5K) run. **You must be registered by August 8 by 6:00 p.m. to receive a hoodie.** Registration is \$35. Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. on race day. Shower facilities are available after the race. All miles for the course will be marked and there is one water stop on the course. Timing will be electronically done. Register at

<https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/Mifflinburg/DandelionRun5k10kTrailRace>.



Kara Hershey	August 01
William Hutchison	August 01
Macie Confer	August 03
Emily Wood	August 05
Becky Donnell	August 09
Patricia Kelley	August 09
Carol Steck	August 09
Eva Belle Sweitzer	August 09
Bella Young	August 11
David Shade	August 12
Ann Jackson	August 14
Sally Robbins	August 17
Barbara Coates	August 18
Quinn Smith	August 18
Braden Beck	August 19
Phil Harvey	August 21
Mary Lou Byerly	August 22
Gabrielle Sims	August 24
Dillan Read	August 27
Franciska Seyler	August 27
Roseann Husband	August 30
Joan Knaus	August 30
Barbara Lamade	August 30
Theodore Cockley	August 31

Happy Anniversary.....

David & Margot	August 02
Chris & Karen	August 02
James & Becky	August 09
Fisher, Kirk &	August 13
Douglas & Patty	August 18
Diane & Rick	August 23
David & Diana	August 24
Richard & Janice	August 27
William & Mary Hutchison	August 31

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