

**ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**\*\*\* 1400 MARKET ST., WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701 \*\*\***  
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## **2022 OCTOBER NEWSLETTER**

### **From the Pastor's Desk: October 2022**

*"... let us then make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification."  
– Romans 14:19 (NRSV)*

Weather-wise, October is one of my favorite times of the year. The crispness of the air, the color of the foliage, the smell of pumpkin-spice lattes: they're all fantastic.

But October also carries with it one of my least favorite things: an abundance of political ads. They've been going on for a while by now, but October is when they really intensify, with election day just a month away. And most of them focus not on the candidate themselves, but on the perceived awfulness of their opponent. Candidates on opposite sides of the aisle tend to portray the other as not just bad, but evil: a threat to democracy and our way of life.

This is, of course, nothing new. The politics of mud-slinging have been around just about as long as elections have been held. And the idea that our nation is becoming more and more divided is also not new. I've both written and preached on several occasions about that division. But, as I was searching for topics to write about for this month's newsletter, it seemed appropriate for a reminder that God calls us to be united in Christ, even if we have different politics.

Regardless of our political convictions, we have a common call to serve God. The prophet Micah summarizes what God requires of Democrats, Republicans, independents, and any minority party: “To act justly and to love mercy and to *walk humbly with your God*” (Micah 6:8, NRSV). I italicized the last few words in that passage because that can be the part we struggle with the most when it comes to our political discourse. Political ads (on both sides) tend to ignore that part completely. They tell half-truths about, incite distrust in, and generally demonize the opponent, while proudly portraying their own candidate as the only possible hope for redemption.

It should go without saying that as Christians, our hope for redemption lies not in politics, but in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. And that means that we should be able to love one another across political divides. It also means that we will be called to serve the powerless, the poor, and the stranger among us. Friends, there is no political party that does not fail that calling in some way or another. So, as the month of November approaches, I suggest that we turn the volume down on those ads (or better yet, turn off the TV altogether), and, as Paul writes in his letter to the Romans, “*make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.*”

Peace,



### Serving in October

**Altar care** – Cindy Belles

**Ushers** – Brad Nason - 2<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 31<sup>st</sup>/Terry Belles - 9<sup>th</sup>/ Bob Borch – 16<sup>th</sup>

**Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> 10:30 am**

**Lector** – Melanie Taormina

**Communion Assistant** – Mark Bergren & Marilyn Eshleman

**Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> 10:30**

**Lector** – Diana Bailey

**Communion Assistant** – Charles Mahler & Patty Durand

**Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> 10:30 am**

**Lector** – Scott Seyler

**Communion Assistant** – Hanne Schuman & Nancy Wood

**Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> 10:30 am**

**Lector** – Brad Nason

**Communion Assistant** – Marilyn Eshleman & Patty Durand

**Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> 10:30 am**

**Lector** – Glenda Merkel

**Communion Assistant** – Mark Bergren & Charles Mahler





The Coffee Hour will be immediately following the 10:30 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.**

**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).

**CONFIRMATION CLASS** for students grades 7 or higher will resume **Sunday, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:15 am in the lounge** (\*Please note the date change)

### **FROM THE OFFICE**



*Sarah Young will be out of the office the week of Oct. 1<sup>st</sup>.  
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.*

### **BLANKET SUNDAY**

On display **Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>** in the Nave and the Chapel will be some of the 140 quilts made by the Sew Fine Quilters this past year. These quilts will be distributed as follows:

- 60 to Lutheran World Relief**
- 12 to our local hospice - The Gatehouse**
- 28 to our local Shepherd of the Street**
- 40 to Project Linus (also 7 Knitted/crocheted blankets)**



*Thank you to everyone who donated fabric, thread, and hours of time to make this possible.*

*A special thank you to Thrivent for providing monetary donations to purchase batting and other items to complete these quilts.*

**SEW FINE QUILTERS** We will be meeting twice in October. Please join us **Monday, Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> and Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am- 3:00 pm in Bell Hall.** Come and go as your time permits. If possible join us for lunch at 12 noon, lunch will be provided.

### **BLUEBERRY HARVEST COFFEE HOUR**

Please join us on **Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>** after the 10:30 am worship service for a special coffee hour. We will be serving delicious treats made of local blueberries by our church family and friends! (*please note the date change*). If you would like to help with this event, please contact Jere Eshleman or John McNassor.

### **CROP WALK**



This year it will be **Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm.** The Williamsport Crop Walk is on the River Walk and registration begins at 1:00 PM, at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 142 Market Street Williamsport. **WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.** Together, we can help end hunger in our community and around the world! **Crop Walk forms are available in the West Hall!**



**KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.**

**SHAWL MINISTRY** meets on the **third Tuesday of the month from 9:30 to noon from September through June in the Lounge.** All knitters and crocheters are welcome to join us. If you know someone who could use the comfort of a shawl to wrap themselves in, please contact Nancy McCarty at 570.419.7827 or [nmac7149@gmail.com](mailto:nmac7149@gmail.com) or the church office.

### **NEW MEMBERS CLASS**

Pastor Jeff will be offering a joint New Members Class for St. Luke and Messiah Churches. The classes will be during the month of October with reception into membership on Reformation Sunday (October 30). Times and location will be decided once participants are identified. Please contact the office at 570 - 323-7309 to express interest. Keep in mind that this class is open to current members also! It's never a bad thing to "go back to the basics", and you would have the opportunity to meet new members to boot!

## **SAVE THOSE COFFEE CANS!**

Please bring in your empty coffee cans (or items of a similar shape and size). We can always use more “vases” for our flower ministry! When altar flowers are not taken home by sponsors, we deliver them to people who may need prayers, love and acknowledgment that their St. Luke family is thinking of them. Flowers are the perfect way to share the warm and caring hospitality St. Luke is known for! “Vases” may be dropped off in the Sacristy or placed on the table in the back of the Nave. If you have any questions, contact Becky Lewis. Please help us brighten someone’s day!

## **YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP**

### **Attention Young Adults!**

You’re a young adult. You feel disconnected from the church. You want a community of people close to your own age who love Jesus and know what Tik Tok is. If any of these things are true for you, then we have good news. Jim Vitale, Camp Mount Luther’s new outreach director, is starting a Young Adult Fellowship and we want you to be a part of it! We will gather on the **last Wednesday of each month, (starting September 28 on Zoom)** to talk about life, faith, and whatever we want! You may have heard that the new Lord of the Rings series is out on Amazon, and it signals, so Jeff Bezos hopes, the beginning of a new extended universe to rival Marvel or Star Wars. While fans wait to see if Rings of Power can top the Fellowship of the Ring, why don’t we go ahead and start a fellowship of our own? We’ll see you **Wednesday, September 28th at 8 p.m.!**

Email [jim@campmountluther.org](mailto:jim@campmountluther.org) for the link!

## **Shepherd of the Streets**

Rev. Mark Brumbach 570-322-6538 [shepherd@uclc.org](mailto:shepherd@uclc.org)

This summer we have experienced a terrific drain on our hygiene kit supplies. We have too often had to encourage our clients to “wait until next week” in the hope that “next week” there will be more items available. We are in need of most everything at this time. When shopping for your personal needs please consider purchasing a few additional items for our Hygiene Kit Ministry. Our kits help recipients to stretch their tight monthly budgets. Listed below are items that are currently needed:

**Disposable Razors/Shaving Cream**

**Toilet Paper/Paper Towels**

**Bath Towels**

**Adult Toothbrushes/Toothpaste**

**Children’s**

**Toothbrushes/Toothpaste**

**Men’s and Women’s**

**Shampoo/Conditioner**

**Men’s and Women’s Body Wash**

**Baby Shampoo**

**Band-Aids**

**Feminine Hygiene items**

**Laundry pods (small packs – check Dollar Tree)**

**Dish Detergent Men's and Women's Deodorant**

Please be mindful of the fact that your financial and material support undergirds the Shepherd of the Streets Ministry. There is no Shepherd Ministry without your support. Through your ongoing generosity, the needs of many in our community continue to be met through the Shepherd office. Your faithfulness enables us to continue serving the least, the last, and the lost in Lycoming County in Jesus name.

**Food Pantry**

**Mona Rundio, Coordinator**

**570-322-1657 \* [UCFPDirector@outlook.com](mailto:UCFPDirector@outlook.com)**

**Welcome back to the season of giving!** We are called to think of others and to provide for them what is needed to survive. We are also to do this without broadcasting our giving to society. **BE HUMBLE AND KIND!** We appreciate any item and amount you choose to give, to help those in these hard times of their life...helping to contribute in some way/portion to their table during the season.

This season we start thinking of the upcoming holidays and how or what we will prepare for the table. For some that may be cooking the entire meal or preparing a dish for a gathering. We have many of the products needed for the holiday meals at the pantry and will continue to receive and distribute them to the families in our community in need of help. Our clients also receive a small gift card (\$5-\$10) in order to buy what we do not have for them. For this to continue, monetary donations or gift card donations are needed.

We would like to give a big THANKS to all of the churches and individuals that have, and still continue to, given to us a portion of their time and finances to help our neighbors in need!

**Coffee  
Condiments  
Pop-tarts  
Rice & Potatoes  
Hamburger Helper  
Jello/Pudding  
Pie fillings**

**Ramen noodles  
Cereal/Oatmeal  
Juices  
Soups  
Canned veggies such as yams,  
potatoes, beets, etc.  
Nutritional snacks**

We are located at the rear of 202 East Third Street, Williamsport and the hours are:

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

**Tuesday: 10:15 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

**Thursday: 10:15 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

**Last Wednesday of each month: 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.**

**Closed the 5th Tuesday/Thursday**

## Strengthening Families Program

Is your family prepared for the journey through the adolescent years? The Strengthening Families Program can help you pack your bags with the skills needed for an exciting adventure!

Attend this FREE 7-week program for 10 to 14-year-olds and their caregivers!

**Tuesdays from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**  
**Starting October 4, 2022**  
**Pine Street United Methodist Church**  
**441 Pine Street, Williamsport**

Dinner for all and childcare for younger siblings are provided. Receive gift cards for attending for at least 6 weeks!

All youth transitioning to the teen years experience new stressors, such as new peer influences, a more demanding school curriculum, added responsibilities, and increased opportunities for independent decision-making. In addition, youth are exposed to many media influences and often confusing messages from TV and the Internet. During this time of growth, it is important to strengthen family bonds and to help youth learn life skills to focus on goals and become responsible young adults. Register now for the Strengthening Families Program and join us in **FUN** family activities that promote communication and **STRONG** family relationships! For more information, or to register, call 570.337.4269 or email [lplankenhorn@wbdaac.org](mailto:lplankenhorn@wbdaac.org).

## Interfaith Dialogue Commission **Rev. Jeff LeCrone, Chairperson**

The mission of the Interfaith Dialogue Commission is to build greater understanding between the faith communities of Lycoming County and to help members of our worship buildings grow in understanding of and love toward people of other faiths.

Over the years, we have furthered this objective in various ways, with the primary one being panel discussions in both schools and in the community at large, as well as having a monthly conversation among people of different faiths.

When I am asked if there is biblical justification for doing interfaith dialogue, my answer is a definite “Yes”. The biggest example I can think of is in the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), and not just in the story itself, but in the

context of how and why it was told. I won't retell the whole thing here, but I encourage you to read it and consider the following:

- Jesus considers the question of eternal life tied to the extent to which we love God and neighbor.
- To elaborate, Jesus told a story about someone who loved across boundaries of religion and culture.
- The hero of that story was a member of the Samaritan community, which was considered to be a corrupt version of Judaism. They were considered religious outsiders.
- By choosing someone outside of his own faith community as the hero of his story, Jesus was demonstrating not only that one should love people outside of our religious circles, but also that we can look to some of them for an example of how to demonstrate that love.

We are not always going to agree with our interfaith neighbors on issues of theology. But being in relationship with them is a way of following Jesus' command to love our neighbor, and it can also help us to find allies in our calling to serve ALL our neighbors and our community. So, we continue the conversation.



If you'd like to take part in that conversation, we meet every third Thursday at 1:30 pm at St. Luke Lutheran Church. If that time doesn't work for you but you'd still like to be involved, contact Pastor Jeff LeCrone at [pastor@stlukeluth.comcastbiz.net](mailto:pastor@stlukeluth.comcastbiz.net).

### **Lycoming Audubon Society**



**Skyline Drive (Saturday, Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> at 8am):** We expect to see and hear resident birds, as well as fall warblers, in a typical mixed PA forest. Towards the mountain top, tree species change, and vistas of west branch forest, marinated or peeking through clouds of early morning fog. Skyline Drive is closed but is a walkable paved road that gently ascends the NE slope of Bald Eagle Mountain off Rte. 15 just east of South Williamsport. At the top of the mountain, where parking is available off the highway, we will gather for the walk at the public rest stop (no comfort facilities). Leader: MADDI DUNLAP (madwoman951@gmail.com). Join us!





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

<i>Daniel Taormina</i>	<i>02</i>
<i>Charleen Whittaker</i>	<i>04</i>
<i>.John Lamade</i>	<i>06</i>
<i>.Jan Matz</i>	<i>06</i>
<i>Brooks Durand</i>	<i>07</i>
<i>Becku Masden</i>	<i>09</i>
<i>Kristin Beck</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Gladus Dann</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Marant Briaas</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Christine Pusher</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Wanda Gardner</i>	<i>14</i>
<i>Deb Bernocco</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Howard Cowles</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Daniel Taormina</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Bob Borch</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Carl Hiller</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Dawn Nau</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Maru Beth Kibbe</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Becku Lewis</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Trish Whelan</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Maru Hutchison</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Kaye Blair</i>	<i>24</i>

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

<i>Robert &amp; Barbara McCullough</i>	<i>October 02</i>
<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Lee Bellott</i>	<i>October 04</i>
<i>Roger &amp; Shelby Wyland</i>	<i>October 04</i>
<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Sarah Young</i>	<i>October 13</i>
<i>Allan &amp; Roseann Husband</i>	<i>October 24</i>

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

# THE PRE-SCHOOL AT ST. LUKE

## *Philosophy*

The St. Luke Pre-School serves our community by providing a quality pre-school education in an early-childhood setting. Through developmentally appropriate activities, young children are nurtured socially, emotionally, physically, intellectually and spiritually.

Since faith is not studied, but lived, the children will learn to respect the feelings and the rights of others through the knowledge that all members of the class are valued and loved.

The Pre-School at St. Luke welcomes children of any race and national or ethnic origin.

## *Objectives*

We strive to:

- Provide an environment which supports the growth of the whole child.
- Offer opportunities to experience success.
- Encourage the children to acquire self-esteem, concern for others, a sense of community, and a spirit of sharing.
- Foster the unique abilities and meet the individual needs of the children.
- Help children feel secure and comfortable in a setting away from parents and home.
- Develop positive attitudes toward school.
- Foster creativity; exploration, curiosity, self-discipline and a love of learning.
- Help develop social skills such as taking turns, sharing, working cooperatively, listening, and following directions.
- Help develop sensory and motor skills. Offer the resources of St. Luke to our pre-school families.

*Meet the St. Luke Pre-School Staff .....*

## STAFF AT ST. LUKE



**Pastor Jeffrey LeCrone, Pastor**  
**Email: [info@stlukeweb.com](mailto:info@stlukeweb.com)**



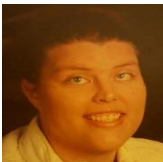
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