

**ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**\*\*\* 1400 MARKET ST., WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701 \*\*\***  
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### **From the Pastor's Desk**

*“Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me,  
in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus” – 2 Timothy 1:13*

By the time you read this, St. Luke Church will have four new members. I've been spending the month of October going through Luther's Small Catechism with these folks to cover the basics of the Christian faith, with a Lutheran emphasis.

Since many of us can count the number of years since we've been confirmed in decades, it's never a bad idea to revisit the catechism once and a while. Here's a quick recap of the main pieces of the catechism:

**The Ten Commandments:** At the time Martin Luther wrote his version, it was a little unusual to begin a catechism with the Ten Commandments. The typical pattern was to start with teaching about God (Apostle's Creed), teach how to pray to God (The Lord's Prayer), and then to teach what God expects of us so that we can stay in God's good graces (The Ten Commandments). But Luther thought that it was better to start with the Commandments so that the reader could be immediately aware of their need for God's grace. He saw the commandments as impossible for the average person to fulfill, especially as they are all rooted in the first one, which requires us to love God in every aspect of our being.

**The Apostle's Creed:** Like all of the historic creeds, the Apostle's Creed focuses on the trinity – God as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God is both the omnipotent

creator of the universe who has given us all good things and the relatable son of a carpenter, who knows intimately what it means to be human, and even to die. It is his death and resurrection that offers us new life. The Holy Spirit calls, unifies, and empowers us for ministry.

**The Lord's Prayer:** Martin Luther would say that If the Ten Commandments is a diagnosis of the problem of humanity, the Apostle's Creed shows us the medicine, and the Lord's Prayer teaches us how to apply and dose that medicine, as it teaches us how to converse with God, asking that God would make God's promises a reality in our own hearts and minds.

**The Sacraments:** In Baptism and the Eucharist (communion) ordinary elements (water, bread, and wine) are combined with God's promised Word to help us experience God's presence as well as god's promises of adoption and forgiveness in powerful ways.

You'll note that all but one of these (the Ten Commandments) are things that we experience every Sunday in worship. This is not done out of a rote commitment to repetition, but rather as a joyful exercise in holding firm to the great gift that we have in Jesus Christ. As we welcome four new members to our church family, may we recommit ourselves to the truths of our faith!

Peace,



### Serving in November

**Altar care** – TBA

**Ushers** – David and Margo Briggs

**Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> 10:30 am** (*Changing of clocks, fall back*)

**Lector** – Barb Coates

**Assisting Minister** – Melanie Taormina

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

**Nov. 13<sup>th</sup> 10:30**

**Lector** – Nancy Wood

**Communion Assistant** – Marilyn Eshleman & Nancy Wood

**Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> 10:30 am**

**Lector** – Jessie Young

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

**Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> 10:30 am**

**Lector** – Susan Horn

**Communion Assistant** – David and Margot Briggs



**REMEMBER Sunday, November 6** daylight saving time ends; set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday!

*The church office will be closed Thursday, Nov. 24th & Friday, Nov. 25th while staff celebrates the Thanksgiving holiday with family.*



**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. **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).

### **NEW MEMBERS**

*St. Luke gained four new members on Sunday, October 30th! If you see Debra Smith, Linda Updegraff, or Jeffrey and Richelle Jones, please be sure to welcome them!*

**SEW FINE QUILTERS** will not meet in November; our next meeting will be on **Monday, Dec. 5th from 9:00am - 3:00pm** in Bell Hall with lunch provided.



**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.

**2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES** may be picked up in the West Hall starting late November. Please note, that the envelopes are in numerical order for the convenience of the office. Your offering envelope number may have changed, so please look for your name. If you have any questions or need help, please contact the church office

**FAITH MATTERS GATHERING** Our next two get-togethers are at **New Trail Brewery from 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm on Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>**. Please note that the time has changed and that you can either eat before you come or choose to get something at the permanent on-site food truck (Remember, the Real Taste Mexican food truck closes at 6 pm). Join us and, as always, feel free to invite friends!

**From the Personnel Committee:** Our present temporary Choir Director, Susan Horn, has asked that St. Luke searches for a permanent Choir Director to relieve her in early 2023. Church members with the requisite musical skills who might have an interest in this part-time paid position or in the alternate might have leads regarding a qualified individual are asked to contact any member of the Personnel Committee. Formal applications and a job description will be available through the church office. (Members of Personnel: *John Kelsey, Susan Duchman, Deb, Bernocco, Cheryl Newberg, Diane Gonzales, and Ruth Croyle.*)

**2022 POINSETTIA ORDERS** Poinsettias are \$10 each and will be on a per-order basis. They can be placed as a memorial or honorarium using the coupon. Please pay with the coupon and place them in an envelope marked "Poinsettias" and return them via the offering plate or church office by **Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you. **Order forms are available at the back of the nave and at the church office.** *Phone orders may be placed, please contact Sarah Young at the church office at 570-3237309.*



### **Watch, Wait, Wonder, and Worship:**

#### **A Midweek Series for Advent**



Join us for a contemplative Advent liturgy on Wednesday nights this Advent season! **Beginning Wednesday, November 30**, we will gather in the chapel at 7 pm on Wednesdays for a brief prayer service that will include reflection and/or discussion on the previous Sunday's scripture.

**PRAYER CHAIN UPDATE** If you or someone you know needs prayer, please call Cindy Belles at 570-419-1363 or Karen Bergren at 570-220-3201 to start the prayer chain. If you want the name to be on the bulletin prayer list call the church office.

#### **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**ST. LUKE ANNUAL MEETING** of the Congregation, Part One will be held **Sunday, December 11, following the 10:30am worship service**. A copy of the agenda and 2023 budget will be available in the back of the nave for pick up on Sunday, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>.

**GLOBAL MISSIONS** Read the latest newsletter updates from our sponsored missionary, **Brian Palmer**: <https://www.uss-elca.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/October-1-2022.pdf>

**October 31, 2022**

**FROM THE BISHOP: NOVEMBER 2022**

*How good and how pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! (Psalm 133)*

To hear these words spoken and sung at the service of installation brought to mind for me our synod strategy (see the top of this newsletter). By calling us in our baptism, God unites us with Christ for the sake of the world. We are united as Lutherans and as Christians. But God does not stop there: as sisters and brothers of Christ, we are united with all who need God's healing grace. I think Rabbi Nina, when she read this Psalm and interpreted it to us, opened our eyes to the wideness of God's mercy that encompasses the kosmos – the world, the whole of creation.



Bishop Eaton, in her sermon, reminded us that we are sent into the world to bring this message – a message of peace, of completeness, promised to all. She charged me with bringing this good news to you, and she charged us all together to bring this message to our families, our friends, our neighbors, and to strangers: God has come into the world to save the world. God has come to bring peace to those who despair of ever knowing peace.

*How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns. (Isaiah 52:7)*

As Bishop Eaton observed in her sermon, our synod office will soon be on the move: “a good thing,” she said, because “you need to be among the people.” With Bishop Eaton, I understand this call as one that requires me to use my feet to carry me to our congregations and other ministries in this synod, to walk among the people. I eagerly anticipate seeing you in your congregations and sharing with you the good news: Your God reigns! Hallelujah!

## **LASAGNA DINNER**



**Trinity Pro-Cathedral, 844 W 4th St, Williamsport  
Wednesday, November 9, from 4:00-6:30 p.m.**

Dinner includes meat lasagna, salad, bread, beverage, and homemade dessert. Eat in or takeout. (Takeout does not include a beverage.) Cost for the dinner is \$13 for adults and \$6 for children (12 & younger) or \$9 for lasagna only. For more information, call 570-322-0126 or email [trinitychurchpa@comcast.net](mailto:trinitychurchpa@comcast.net)

## **WILLIAMSPORT CIVIC CHORUS**

The Williamsport Civic Chorus presents  
*“Faure’s Requiem and Five Hebrew Love Songs, plus Others”*



The Williamsport Civic Chorus is delighted to present Gabriel Faure’s beloved Requiem to officially kick off its 2022-2023 concert season. Faure’s most famous choral work is joined by Eric Whitacre’s Five Hebrew Love Songs, as well as other selections. **Join us, 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 13th at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church at 142 Market Street in Williamsport.** We will also be featuring soloists as well as orchestral accompaniment throughout the concert.

When one thinks of a Requiem, they might expect solemn and mournful music. But Faure’s Requiem is anything but, which is undoubtedly a reason for its worldwide popularity. Faure himself apparently wrote it as a tribute to his father, who died in 1885. Death and redemption are given glorious treatment here, and the familiar melodies of the Requiem continue to entrance audiences. The Requiem was performed at Faure’s own funeral in 1924. The “Five Hebrew Love Songs” are adapted from the heartfelt, delicate poetry of composer Eric Whitacre’s wife, Hila Plitmann. Featuring unusual arrangements and evocative rhythms, the five sweet songs are exquisite little works of art in and of themselves.

Tickets are available at the door for \$12 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors, and children under twelve are always welcome free of charge. Discounted tickets are available from our friends at Robert M. Sides Family Music and Otto Bookstore and can also be purchased online by visiting [www.williamsportcivicchorus.org](http://www.williamsportcivicchorus.org). Help us kick off our 78th season with this lush, romantic concert!

## LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE BOUNDLESSNESS OF GOD



Camp Mount Luther recently ended their summer camping season. Around 433 participants took part in programs during the seven-week session, the first held in two years due to the pandemic. Before campers arrived, the staff participated in two weeks of training. Bishop Collins installed staff on June 17 at Synod Assembly.

This summer, 230 campers enjoyed on-site programs including mini, day, traditional, specialty, and family camps. Campers got to do crafts, go swimming, play games, camp out, hike, and sing during their time at Mount Luther. This year's theme at Mount Luther was "Boundless: God beyond Measure." Campers entered the hopeful and saving story of God and God's people and experienced God's boundless creating, loving, and merciful power for us. They learned about God's boundless goodness, love, welcome, forgiveness, and generosity.

Some highlights from this summer included: the return of Traditional and New Things (TNT), X-Teen, Night Owls, SALT (Service and Leadership Training), and Pick-An Adventure. A Family Camp was also held for participants of all ages. The adult Bible studies were led by Rev. Andrew Weaver of Sunbury. New programs this year included Family Pick-A-Day, Elective Explosion, and Wild Week.

This year, 203 campers were able to experience camp through off-site camps. They were held at Zion Lutheran, Turbotville; Trinity Lutheran and Lost Creek Presbyterian, McAlisterville; Christ's Lutheran, Lewisburg; Buffalo Valley Lutheran Parish, Mifflinburg; St. John Lutheran, Northumberland; The Table, First Presbyterian, and Trinity United Church of Christ, Bloomsburg; United in Christ and Milton Lutheran, West Milton and Milton; St. Peter, Kreamer; and Zion, Sunbury.

### Wanting The Best For Each Other

SEPTEMBER 8, 2022

By Rev. Gwen N. Bernstine, Pastor, Lycoming Presbyterian Church, Newberry



When I walk around my neighborhood, I think about the families living in the houses and lift them up to God, wanting the best for them. On most of our walks, one or more of our neighbors are outside and say hello and sometimes chat a bit.

These walks, several times a day, benefit our dog Truffles, and he gets “bent out of shape” if neighbors don’t speak to him or come over and pet him. He also gets dejected if we have chosen a bad time to go for a walk, when no neighbors are outside. The other day a dejected Truffles was headed home when he saw a young man, a perfect stranger, walking down the street. Truff pranced right up, tail wagging, and made a new friend.

News stories show that many of us are much better at making new enemies than making new friends. We differ on many issues, including abortion, gun control, the death penalty, health care, and human sexuality. Stories show us models of behavior that exclude people from being valued co-workers or neighbors. Sometimes these stories seem to exclude us from living on the same planet.

I am disheartened when people expect us to believe the same things. We do not grow when we are not challenged by new and different ideas that cause us to reassess our beliefs. When we value diverse opinions, I think this will help us better value each other and care for each other.

One of the basic tenants of all people of faith is that we are to “love one another” (John 13:34 ESV). That is not an optional request, but we are expected to look at people as worthy, not expendable. We must care for each other. Maya Angelou, using a quote attributed to Carl W. Buehner, once said, “I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” We can never go wrong with making others feel valued, worthy, and special. Saint Paul, in his letter to the congregations in Galatia urges us to “bear one another’s burdens” (Galatians 6:2).

When we care for each other, we want the best for them. That is why I start my walk lifting my neighbors up in prayer. The blessing of peace/shalom is central to many faith traditions. Many Christian congregations share or pass the peace during worship. The Muslim faith tradition, Islam, comes from the words al-silm and istaslama, which translated mean “peace.” And both of our Jewish congregations in Lycoming County have the word Sholom in their title. This blessing is an active power for healing, building, and sustaining relationships.

The blessing of Shalom, Peace be With You, tells people we love them, that we want to help bear their burdens, that we want the best for them, and that they are in our prayers. Go out in our community in Peace!

*Posted in [Faith Matters](#)*



# THE PRE-SCHOOL AT ST. LUKE

## IN NOVEMBER.....

We will be celebrating 5 birthdays this month and on Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> enjoying our Feast of Favorites to celebrate Thanksgiving. No Pre-School on Friday, Nov. 25<sup>th</sup>.



THANK YOU, dads/grandfathers! Pumpkin Carving Night was a huge success!

A BIG thank you to all parents, friends and St. Luke church members for supporting the mum fundraiser this year, it was a big success!!

**WEIS 4 SCHOOL PROGRAM** The Pre-School at St. Luke is once again partnering up with Weis Market in the Weis 4 School program. By Participating in this program, you can earn money for our school by simply shopping. You can register your Weis Rewards card with the bar code found on the flyer (**located in West Hall**) or by registering online at [weis4school.com](http://weis4school.com).





Amanda DeLong	November 01
Catharine "Kay" Ertel	November 06
Evelyn Griffith	November 06
Christopher Scampone	November 06
Jacob Edmonds	November 09
Andrea Clark	November 11
Leah Lewis	November 11
Cheryl Newburg-Nason	November 16
Oscar Knade Jr.	November 19
Lottie Witmer	November 19
Melissa Eshleman	November 23
Shirley Knade	November 25
Frederick Lewis Sr.	November 26
Nancy Wood	November 26
Scarlett Young	November 29

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

Knaur, Chris & Karen	November 07
Clark, Brett & Andrea	November 08
Smith, Micheal & Allison	November 14
Snyder, Sr., Jack & Deloris	November 22

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

## STAFF AT ST. LUKE



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



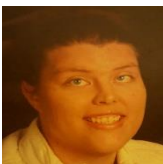
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