

ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
***** 1400 MARKET ST., WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701 *****



E-Mail: info@stlukeweb.com
St. Luke Online: www.stlukeweb.com
2023 NEWSLETTER

From the Pastor's Desk

April 2023

*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

As I write this, it is the first day of spring. Along with warmer temperatures and a more colorful landscape, one of my favorite things about this time of year is that the days are longer. Longer days mean more sunlight, as well as more opportunities to absorb it. As it turns out, there is scientific proof that this is a very good thing. More sunlight means more Vitamin D, which means our bodies are more likely to produce serotonin, a hormone that helps to stabilize our moods and increase happiness. I don't know about you, but when I am happy, I am more likely to treat others in ways to increase *their* happiness.

The point I'm trying to make is that it is literally true that the more light we absorb, the more we can shine in the lives of others.

This, of course, is just as true when it comes to the Gospel message. The more we absorb the truth of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection into our lives, the more we can share it with others. I made this very same point in last year's April

newsletter, but I think the message bears repeating, and the month in which we celebrate Easter Sunday seemed like a good time to do it.

But also, as I re-read that article today, it seemed to me that my scope was a little too narrow. I wrote about how we can absorb Gospel truth through worship and Bible Study. And that's certainly true. But we experience the truth of God's love for us in many different ways every day. We just often fail to name it as such.

So, as the days get longer and warmer, I hope that you can get out and absorb more of the sun ... and the Son.

Peace,



Serving in April at the 10:30 am worship & Holy Week services

Altar care – Cindy Belles

Ushers – Ushers – Keith Wood; Brad Nason (9th, 23rd, 26th)

April 2nd *Passion/Palm Sunday*

10:30 am **Lector** – Barb Coates, Mark Bergren & Charles Mahler

Communion Assistants – Hanne Schuman & Patty Durand

April 6th *Maundy Thursday*

7:00 pm **Lector** – Nancy McCarty

Communion Assistants – Nancy Wood & Keith Wood

April 7th *Good Friday*

7:00 pm **Lector** – TBA & Charles Mahler

Communion Assistants – Melanie Taormina

April 9th *Easter Sunday*

8:00 am TBA

9:15 am *Breakfast in Bell Hall*

10:30 am **Lector** – Wilma Reeder

Communion Assistants – Becky Lewis & Marilyn Eshleman

April 16th

10:30 am **Lector** – Jay Nau

Communion Assistants – Strother Family

See next pg.

April 23rd

10:30 am **Lector** – Brad Nason

Communion Assistants –Patty Durand & Hanne Schuman

April 30th

10:30 am **Lector** – Nancy Wood

Communion Assistants – Mark & Karen Bergren

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).

INCLEMENT WEATHER CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENT may be found by checking the church website (stlukeweb.com), and our FACEBOOK page.



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP AT ST. LUKE

Sunday, April 2, Passion/Palm Sunday – 8:00am & 10:30am

Thursday, April 6, Maundy Thursday – 7:00pm

Friday, April 7, Good Friday –7:00pm

Sunday, April 9, The Resurrection of Our Lord – 8:00am service

9:15am Breakfast followed by 10:30am service (both services in the Nave)

UPDATING THE CHURCH DIRECTORY INFORMATION Our membership directory will be available for pickup at the back of the nave. If something in the membership directory is incorrect or to update your information, please contact Sarah Young at 570-323-7309 or email info@stlukeweb.com. *(Please note that a small number of copies will be made available; after corrections/updates are made, new copies will be made available for each member/family.) Thank you.*

THE 2023 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the West Hall for pickup. If you cannot find yours, please contact the church office.

SEW FINE QUILTERS will meet on **Monday, April 3 from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm** in Bell Hall with lunch provided at noon.

SHAWL MINISTRY will meet on **Tuesday, 18 from 9:30 am-noon**. 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 or the church office.

PRAYER CHAIN

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.

COFFEE HOURS



- **8:00 am** – A sign-up sheet for the early service coffee hour is located in the chapel. There will be four early-service coffee hours in 2023. Please consider volunteering for one of these dates.

If you'd like, someone on the fellowship committee would be willing to help.

- **10:30 am** - A sign-up sheet for the late service coffee hour is located on the bulletin board in the West Hall. These coffee hours are held monthly, please consider volunteering for one of these dates. (Contact the office for a list of the committee members.)

IMMEDIATE OPENING: Music Director, St. Luke Lutheran Church, Williamsport PA, to include responsibility for music selection, weekly worship accompaniment including pipe organ, direction of adult choir, bell choir and children's choir as applicable. Minimum requirement of 10 hours a week to include two Sunday worship services. Generous salary and benefits package commensurate with experience. Full job description available on inquiry. For further information, please contact the church office, or Pastor Jeff LeCrone, at (570) 323-7309 or info@stlukeweb.com.

RICHARD E. SWARTZ MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Applications are available for pickup at the church office. Applications are located outside the office, on the wall rack.



PRE-SCHOOL FLOWER SALE The Mother's Day flower sale has begun and will run until Tuesday, April 25. Each coupon cost \$20.00 and can be redeemed for one 10-inch hanging basket at Fairfield Greenhouse (*formerly Simmers Nursery*) in Montoursville from May 1- June 20.

Please consider supporting the Pre-School at St. Luke when purchasing flowers for the spring/summer growing season as well as Mother's Day gifts.

PROJECT LINUS

On behalf of the Central Susquehanna Valley Chapter of Project Linus, I want to thank you for your support of our mission of "Providing Security Through Blankets." In 2022 we delivered over 2,000 blankets to sick, injured, and abused children in our 7-county chapter. We couldn't do it without your support. Every September, members of this congregation volunteer their time to make quilts, fleece blankets and crochet together granny squares. Last September, with the help of Lynn Shade and Cindy Belles, I delivered 354 blankets to the chapter headquarters in Lewisburg. It took three vehicles to deliver that many blankets. They went out almost immediately to the Williamsport, Muncy Valley, and Jersey Shore Hospitals. November and December are the biggest times of the year when we get requests for blankets.

Now our inventory is low. There will be a Make a Blanket Day at Faith Lutheran Church, 2349 Old Turnpike Rd. Lewisburg, PA 17837 on April 15, 9:30 am to 2:00 pm to help refill the inventory.

We currently need fleece to make blankets. It can be yard goods for blankets measuring 60x72 or blanket kits. You can get the kits at JoAnn's. There are usually some on the discounted rack. They don't have to be fancy, just something that a child would enjoy snuggling. **There is a box in the West hallway for your donations.** Additionally, if you would like to donate a new handmade blanket, you can also put that in the box. I travel to Lewisburg on the first Saturday and the third Wednesday of the month. *If anyone would like to go with me to see the operation and help sort blankets, prep fleece for Make a Blanket Day, sew on tags, or help with the intake of blankets, or would like more information about Project Linus call me at 503-686-4968 or email me at nauhill2@comcast.net*

I am proud to be a part of such a caring and generous congregation. Together we can make a difference in a child's life.

Thank you, Dawn Nau





CAMP MOUNT LUTHER EARLY REGISTRATION



Early Deadline: Register for summer camp at Mount Luther by midnight on **April 15, 2023**, to get a discount on your summer camp registration! Or, if you bring a friend who has never been there, you can get 25% off your registration fee. Program information and registration at www.campmountluther.org.

AT THE CAPITOL

Mark your calendar and plan to join Lutherans from around the state for a day of worship, learning and advocacy on **April 27, 2023**. Plan to stay for a dinner celebration of advocates at the Harrisburg Hilton. Tell your friends and watch here for more information and registration.



EARTH DAY OPPORTUNITY

Earth Day Eve over the Bridge (21Apr-Fri-6p): Fifty-three years ago, Earth Day was initiated as a national expression of appreciation for our planet. Directions: Join the Lycoming Audubon Society on the River Walk gathering on the north/Wegman's side, near the river dam. Ample parking is available. Look for Audubon signs. With signs and flags, we'll walk clockwise, cross Market Street bridge, walk west a short way, stop and chat, then turn around and come back across the bridge. You may want to continue walking, or head home. Thanks for adding your presence in this simple statement of celebrating our beautiful earth. Leaders: Dorothy Holloway (hollowayok@gmail.com), Larry Waltz (LNRWaltz@aol.com).

GOLF CLASSIC



The annual Bishop Open's Golf Classic is set for May 8, 2023, beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the Susquehanna Valley Country Club in Shamokin Dam. The tournament benefits Camp Mount Luther and the camp's annual fund.

The camp's golf tournament committee is currently looking for hole sponsors, silent auction items, and golfers. If you can help, please call 570-922-1587 or email cml@campmountluther.org. Congregations are also encouraged to become hole sponsors. Register online here: <https://www.campmountluther.org/golf-registration/>
Forms are also available for pick up at the back of the nave and the church office.

CITIZENS RETURNING TO OUR COMMUNITY

MARCH 3, 2023



Formally incarcerated individuals face many obstacles in life upon their release from prison. In the past, many of us have used terms or labels, that often foster a negative image of a person who may already have one step down upon returning to their home or establishing a new residence in our community. A returning citizen is far more enhancing than perhaps ex-con, felon, fugitive, or on probation, etc.

Returning Citizens may struggle with obtaining employment, finding suitable housing, health issues, addictions, and mental health issues. On the flip side returning citizens are tax payers, employed and may be sitting beside you on a Sunday morning. They have a history as do all of us. We are all better people than actions or decisions we made on the worst day of our lives. The gospel message is

of forgiveness. Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times? (Matthew 18:21-22) Of course Jesus tells him Seventy times seven. Although the disciples had been with Jesus for some time, they were still thinking in the limited terms of the law, rather than the unlimited terms of grace and love.

It is important to acknowledge employers, land lords and so many organizations, agencies and individuals who reach out and assist a Returning Citizen. Often it is you as a person who can do so much behind the scenes to assist and welcome a person who has had a difficult past. We recall the old adage but for the grace of God there go I.

Hebrews 13:1-3 Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers... continue to remember those in prison as it you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as it you yourself were suffering.

-Mr. James Foran, Retired Director of Faith Formation, St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Yokefellow Prison Ministry Board Member, Member of the Pennsylvania Prison Society

Posted in [Faith Matters](#)

HELP WANTED

Administrative Assistant for Faxon-Kenmar United Methodist Church, 1301 Clayton Ave., Williamsport, PA. 12 hours per week. See faxonkenmar.org for details about the position and application process.

SIGHT AND SOUND BUS TRIP

Join United Churches of Lycoming County on **June 13th** for our annual Sight and Sound Bus Trip! This year, we will be enjoying Moses and a delicious lunch at Bird in Hand Restaurant. The bus will leave from First Church, Williamsport at 6:30 a.m. and will return at 7:30 p.m. The cost per person is \$140. Save your spot as soon as possible. The deadline is May 1st or when the bus is full, whichever comes first. Don't miss out! Call the office with any questions at 570-322-1110. *St. Mark's will be making the same trip in October 2023. More info about that trip coming late summer.*



College is hard! Navigating unfamiliar geographic and cultural environments of a new college and an entirely new city can be a daunting task. And for a first-generation college student, there can be additional challenges to traverse.

You can help! By serving as a host household, you can help a promising Lycoming College student acclimate to their new student life in Williamsport.

Scan this QR code  **to learn more about OpenWilliamsport.**



**LYCOMING
COLLEGE**

Lycoming College is a nationally ranked institution that launches students across a range of professions. The College is committed to community and has served as an economic engine for the city of Williamsport, Lycoming County, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania since its inception in 1812.



To our members celebrating a birthday in March....

Chelsey Wood	April 02
Justin Wood	April 02
Jessie Young	April 04
Nancy Long	April 07
Gayle Peters-Coates	April 07
Halle Clark	April 09
Brett Clark	April 10
Eddie Good	April 10
Laura 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
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.)



STAFF AT ST. LUKE



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



Sarah M. Young, Church Office Manager
Email: **info@stlukeweb.com**



Susan Horn, Organist/Choir Director
Email: **info@stlukeweb.com**



Chris Knaur, Sexton
Email: **info@stlukeweb.com**



Melissa Eshleman, Business Manager
Email: **info@stlukeweb.com**

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