

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:

Missional Musings

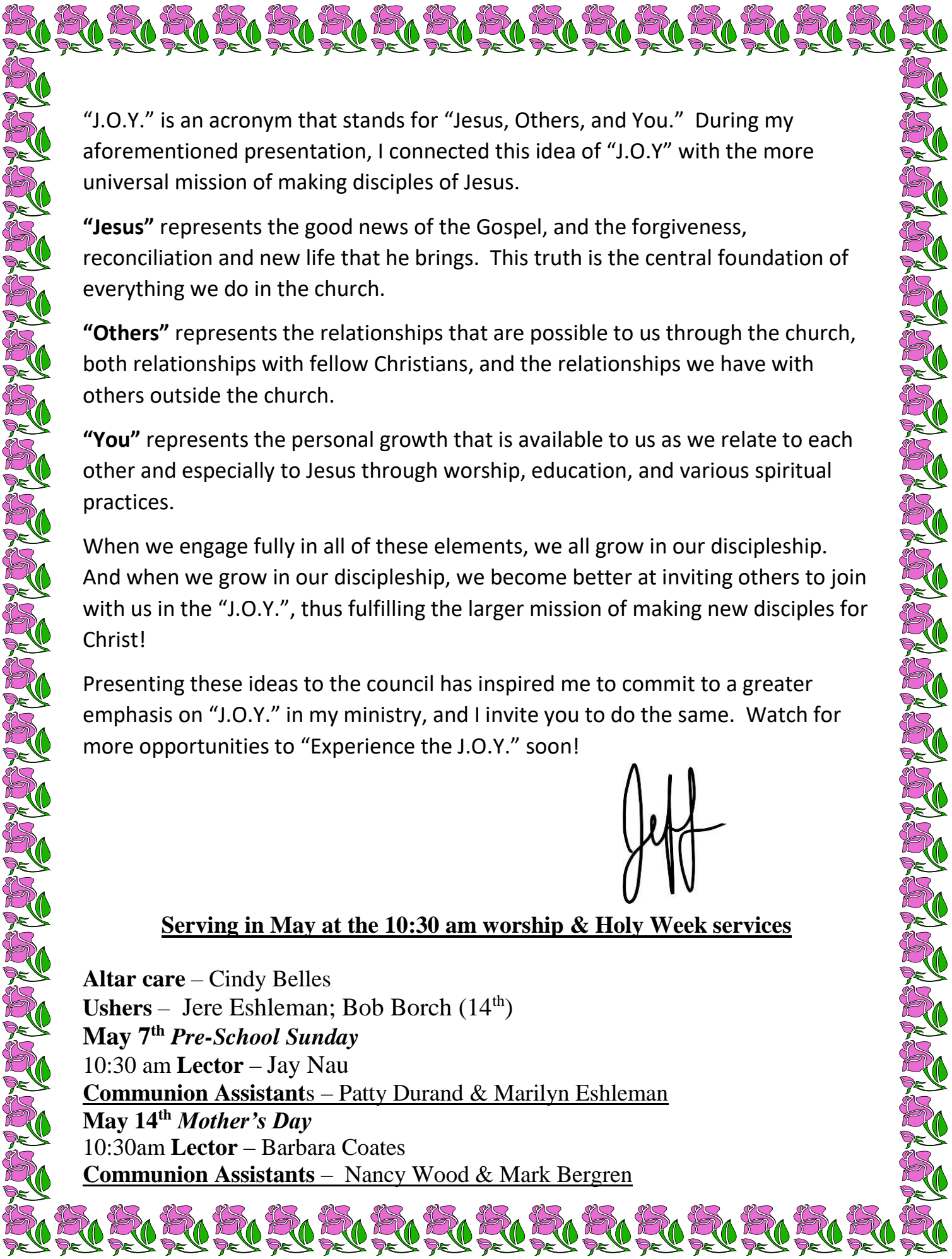
"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." - Matthew 28:19-20

Recently, I was asked to give a brief presentation of the mission of St. Luke Church at a council retreat. My mind went first to the mission of the overall church, which is found in the Great Commission (see verses above). Biblically speaking, the mission of the church is to draw people into a life changing relationship with Jesus. But I also knew that St. Luke has it's own mission statement that is meant to represent our unique contribution to the church's overall mission.

Are you able to identify our official mission statement? It's okay if you can't, because this article is the perfect opportunity to learn it. I've included a logo version of it to the right of this paragraph. The same logo appears on our church stationery and on other church documents, such as our website. The full statement is as follows:



"Experience the J.O.Y.: Come and Worship, Go and Serve".



“J.O.Y.” is an acronym that stands for “Jesus, Others, and You.” During my aforementioned presentation, I connected this idea of “J.O.Y” with the more universal mission of making disciples of Jesus.

“**Jesus**” represents the good news of the Gospel, and the forgiveness, reconciliation and new life that he brings. This truth is the central foundation of everything we do in the church.

“**Others**” represents the relationships that are possible to us through the church, both relationships with fellow Christians, and the relationships we have with others outside the church.

“**You**” represents the personal growth that is available to us as we relate to each other and especially to Jesus through worship, education, and various spiritual practices.

When we engage fully in all of these elements, we all grow in our discipleship. And when we grow in our discipleship, we become better at inviting others to join with us in the “J.O.Y.”, thus fulfilling the larger mission of making new disciples for Christ!

Presenting these ideas to the council has inspired me to commit to a greater emphasis on “J.O.Y.” in my ministry, and I invite you to do the same. Watch for more opportunities to “Experience the J.O.Y.” soon!



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

Altar care – Cindy Belles

Ushers – Jere Eshleman; Bob Borch (14th)

May 7th Pre-School Sunday

10:30 am **Lector** – Jay Nau

Communion Assistants – Patty Durand & Marilyn Eshleman

May 14th Mother's Day

10:30am **Lector** – Barbara Coates

Communion Assistants – Nancy Wood & Mark Bergren

May 21st

10:30 am **Lector** – Sue Beidler

Communion Assistants – Erick & Stephanie Fortin

May 28th *Pentecost*

10:30 am **Lector** – Bard Nason

Communion Assistants – Becky Lewis & Hanne Schuman

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).

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. *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, May 1st from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm and Monday 8th** in Bell Hall with lunch provided at noon.

SHAWL MINISTRY will meet on **Tuesday, May 16th 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, please call the church office.

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.

FROM THE PRE-SCHOOL

REMINDER – If you purchased a hanging basket, they are available for pick up at Fairfield Greenhouse (*formerly Simmers Nursery*) in Montoursville from **May 1- June 20**.



Please join us on **Sunday, May 7th at the 10:30 am** worship service in celebrating the Pre-School at St. Luke Graduating Class of 2023. Worship will be followed by coffee hour hosted by the Pre-School board. All are welcome!

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.

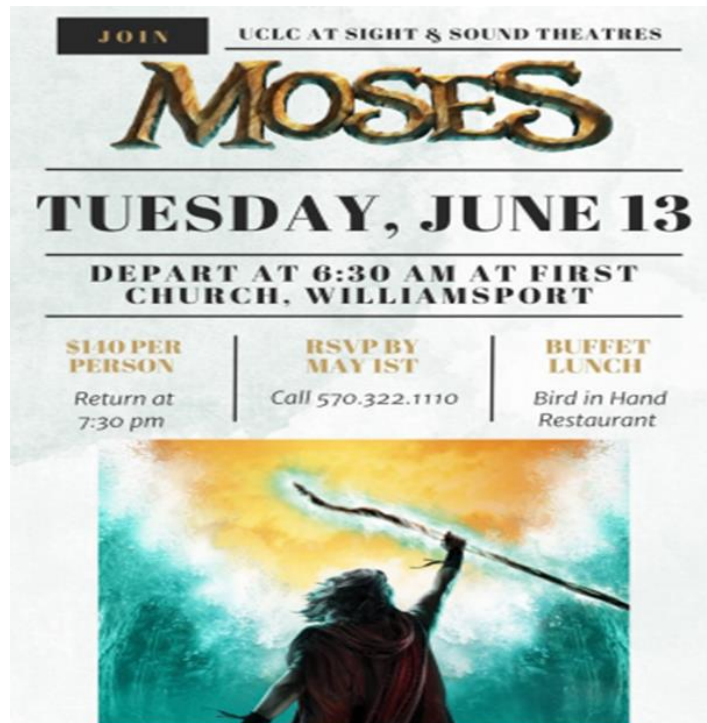
The camp's golf tournament committee is currently looking for hole sponsors, silent auction items, and golfers. If you can help, please call 570-922-1587 or email cml@campmountluther.org. Congregations are also encouraged to become hole sponsors. Register online here: <https://www.campmountluther.org/golf-registration/>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



Any day between today and October 31, 2023, is good to purchase items for the Seafarers Christmas bags. As spring has already sprung, there is likely to be a sale on sweatshirts at a good price. Each Christmas bag will include a sweatshirt, a T-shirt, 3 pairs of warm crew socks, handmade hats and cowls (patterns available), sweatshirts and T-shirts in sizes M, L, and X-L. There will be a box in the West entrance for your gifts.

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.*



CML Spring Work Day

Practice stewardship through service at camp at Camp Mount Luther at the Annual Spring Work Day on **Saturday, May 20, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** We need your help getting the camp grounds and facilities ready for summer. There will be plenty to do and everyone in the family can help! Please bring supplies to do cleaning, mulching, raking, and light construction projects such as step ladders, buckets, rakes, etc. A light lunch will be served. RSVP by May 15 if staying for lunch to cml@campmountluther.org or 570-922-1587.



This year's camping season at Camp Mount Luther will begin on **June 18, 2023**. Resident and Day Camps run until August 8. There are programs for all ages from kindergarten to senior high, adults, and families. Most sessions run for one week, but there are also half-week and day-only sessions, including a Pick-A-Day Camp and Pick Your Adventure. For more information on this summer's programs, call the camp office at (570) 922-1587 or visit the camp's website at <http://www.campmountluther.org>.

This year, the camp is offering more traditional programs throughout the summer. The Mount Luther experience is a blend of small and large group activities. Campers spend most of their time in a cabin group with peer campers and their counselors. A Family Camp will be held during the week of **July 4** and there is also a Servant And Leadership Training camp for senior high. A junior high Pedal, Pack, and Paddle camp will allow campers to bike, backpack, and canoe for three days. Tracks allows elementary and middle schoolers to spend more time in a specialty area during their week.

The camp is also accepting applications for Summer Staff positions. Candidates must possess a commitment to Christ, a passion for the outdoors, and strong leadership and teamwork skills. We are looking for people who can put the needs of others ahead of themselves. The camp is accredited by the American Camp Association. If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact chad@campmountluther.org or submit an application online at www.campmountluther.org/jobs

OLD IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, MUNCY

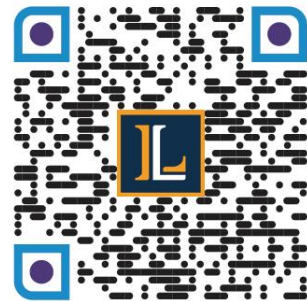
The annual Memorial Service at Old Immanuel Lutheran Church, Muncy, will be held this year on **Sunday, June 4, 2023 at 2:30 pm**. The Rev. Ben Lander, the pastor at St. Andrew Lutheran, Muncy, will be preaching at the service. Old Immanuel is recognized as being the "Mother Church of Lutheranism" in Lycoming County. Light refreshments will be served after the service on the church lawn. Everyone is invited to participate in the service, tour the historic church, and stay for a time of fellowship afterwards. Please be advised that there is no electricity or running water available on site. We hope to see you there!



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.

A Time for Embracing and Parting

Holy Week 2023

Greetings in Christ to all our global mission companions,

A missionary update from the two of us is way, way overdue. Unfortunately, since mid-2022 Marta and I have been preoccupied with the declining health and death of loved ones on both sides of the Deal-Giron family.

On March 20, my 96-year-old mother (**Miriam Morgan Deal**) died peacefully in her room at an assisted living facility in Rockville, MD which had been her home for not quite a year. Her health had been declining ever since she moved to assisted living.

In the days prior to her death, she was receiving hospice care services as well as pastoral care from both the facility chaplain and from the pastor of the ELCA congregation where she had maintained her church membership. My siblings and I are truly thankful for the medical and spiritual care that she received during those final days.

While no date has been set yet, a memorial service will be held for her at the Silver Spring, MD congregation that has been her church home for a decade or more.



Then, with my siblings, we'll take Mom's ashes, together with those of my father (who died in 2013), to Hickory, NC where they will be placed in the columbarium of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church – the church home of my paternal grandparents which is located just a few blocks from the house where my father was born in 1923. Once we set the date, Marta and I will be returning to the U.S. for the trip to North Carolina and a final memorial service at

Holy Trinity to remember and celebrate the lives of both my parents.

On the Giron side of the family, Marta is mourning the loss of one of her siblings and is preparing herself for the worst in the case of another.

On December 20, she received word that her oldest brother (**Rodolfo Giron**) had died in the ICU unit of a Guatemala City hospital while awaiting surgery for a heart condition. Thankfully, Marta was able to get to Guatemala in time for Rodolfo's burial service the following day.

After the burial, she spent the rest of December and most of January helping to care for her mother who, understandably, took the news of her oldest child's death extremely hard.

While Marta was with her family in Guatemala, I spent the week after Christmas with my mother in Rockville, MD. There were times during that visit when it seemed that her death was imminent, but there were also a couple of days when she was alert and talkative – which was an unexpected blessing.

After returning to Costa Rica in January, Marta and I were looking forward to a bit of a respite. Then, we received a phone call from one of Marta's younger sisters (**Lidia Giron**) who lives in northern Mexico and has been battling cancer for more than a year.

Lidia's doctors had just informed her that the cancer for which she was receiving treatment had begun spreading to other vital organs. There's nothing more the doctors can do to contain the spread, except for pain management.

So, in mid-April, Marta and I will be traveling to Mexico to visit her sister. For me, it will be my first opportunity to meet Lidia in person. For Marta, it could be the last time that she sees her sister alive. For both of us, it will be another emotional journey in a long season of embracing and parting with loved ones.

As we often do in our missionary updates, Marta and I ask for your prayers . . . prayers of thanksgiving for the 96 years of life that God gave my mother . . .

Prayers of intercession for Marta's sister Lidia as she continues to fight an uphill battle against cancer . . .

And finally, your prayers for the two of us as we comfort and console our loved ones from afar.

Your servants in Christ,

Stephen Deal & Marta Giron
ELCA Missionaries – San José, Costa Rica



“HELLO” from Sojourner Truth Ministries!

We are so blessed to serve the community in the capacity that we do. Our March meal count was well over 2000 served - we have been busy! Check us out on FaceBook- “Sojourner Truth Ministries, Inc.” STM is on the verge of opening the House of Hope- a Christ-based, communal living program for women coming out of homelessness. We cannot move forward without a Director. We continue to seek the ideal candidate for this position, please reach out to us for details at 570-323-1797. We are looking for someone amazing! Someone who will be able to take charge, vet appropriate candidates, represent the program, fundraise, oversee and mentor staff and program, budget, work under pressure, lead others, and more. We are also taking applications for volunteer mentors and other various positions. And, we still need two Resident Advocates staff positions someone to advocate for our patrons living with multiple barriers, as well as advocating for the ministry itself. This role requires a confident, organized, goal-oriented, can-do multitasker with computer and social skills who is willing to go out into the community to connect on our behalf. Thank you for your prayers for this ministry, for those we serve, and for all who come here to work in any capacity.

Blessings to you~ Angelique Director, Sojourner Truth Ministries, Inc. 501 High St, Williamsport



Upcoming Meetings

Parents and Caregivers of Children with Mental Health Struggles

3rd Thursday of each month 6:00-7:00 p.m.

West End Christian Community Center

901 Diamond Street, Williamsport

For questions, please call: Kelly Gordon (570) 326-7895

Lycoming County Peer Support Group

2nd Wednesday of each month

6:30-7:30 p.m.

West End Christian Community Center

901 Diamond Street, Williamsport

Check NAMI NCPA on Facebook for updates

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline



To our members celebrating a birthday in April

Drew Wagner	May 01
David Briggs	May 02
Pamela Shenberger	May 02
Allison Smith	May 02
Elizabeth Harris	May 06
Richard Tignor	May 06
Jack Fortin	May 08
James Labenberg	May 09
Sandy Lentz Strother	May 11
Alice Good	May 13
Keith Wood	May 19
Carol Metzger	May 20
Jocelyn Jean	May 25
Debra Smith	May 25
John III Good III	May 30
Gavin Briggs	May 31
Sally Labenberg	May 31

Happy Anniversary.....

Keith & Nancy Wood	May 11
Jay & Dawn Nau	May 12
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Larson	May 15
Bill & Linda Liptak	May 20
Tom & Karen Morrison	May 28
William & Jeanne Yaggi	May 29

(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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