



***St. Luke Lutheran Church  
1400 Market Street  
Williamsport, PA 17701***

***Seventh Sunday after Easter  
May 21, 2023  
8:00AM and 10:30AM***

~~~~~  
*In these days between Ascension and Pentecost, we gather with the disciples in the upper room, waiting for the Spirit to transform the church around the world. In today's gospel Jesus prays for his followers and for their mission in his name. Amid religious, social, and economic divisions, we seek the unity that Jesus had with his Father. Made one in baptism, we go forth to live our faith in the world, eager for the unity that God intends for the whole human family.*  
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### **GATHERING**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** *Canon in D*.....Johann Pachelbel

#### **THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,  
by whose hand we are given new birth,  
by whose speaking we are given new life.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are welcomed, restored, and supported  
as citizens of the new creation.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.  
Holy God,  
holy and merciful,  
holy and mighty,  
you are the river of life,  
you are the everlasting wellspring.



In mercy and might you have freed us from death  
and raised us with Jesus, the firstborn of the dead.  
In baptismal waters our old life is washed away,  
and in them we are born anew.  
Glory to you for oceans and lakes,  
for rivers and streams.  
Honor to you for waters that wash us clean,  
quench our thirst, and nurture both crops and creatures.  
Praise to you for the life-giving water of baptism,  
the outpouring of the Spirit of the new creation.

**C Wash away our sin and all that separates us from you.  
Empower our witness to your resurrection.  
Strengthen our resolve in seeking justice for all.**

**P** Satisfy the world's need through this living water.  
Where drought dries the earth, bring refreshment.  
Where despair prevails, grant hope.  
Where chaos reigns, bring peace.  
We ask this through Christ,  
who with you and the Spirit reigns forever.

**C Amen.**

## **GATHERING HYMN WOV 756**

*Lord, You Give the Great Commission*

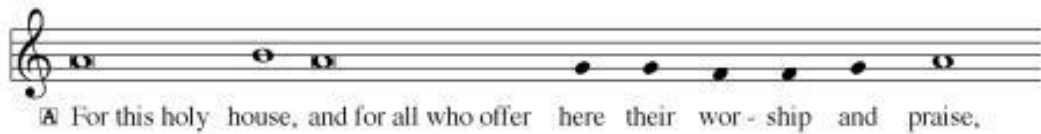
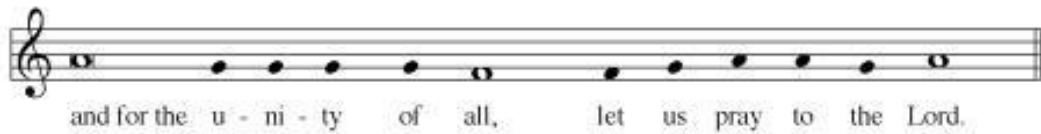
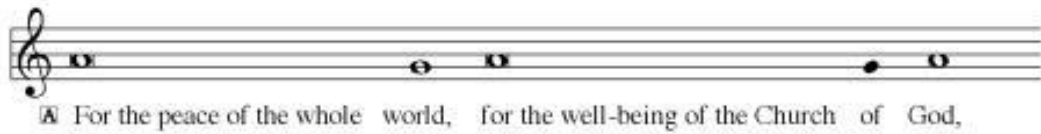
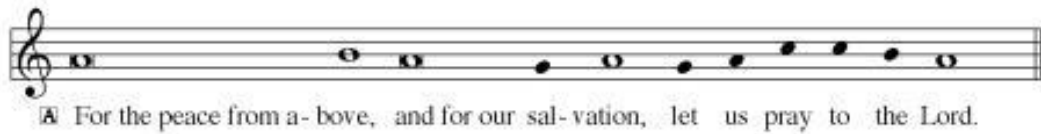
## **GREETING**

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the  
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C And Also with you.**



# KYRIE (LBW pg. 78)





## HYMN OF PRAISE (LBW pg. 81)

Ⓐ This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

Ⓑ Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY (*read in unison*)

O God of glory, your Son Jesus Christ suffered for us and ascended to your right hand. Unite us with Christ and each other in suffering and in joy, that all the world may be drawn into your bountiful presence, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



## WORD

*Sit*

### **FIRST READING: Acts 1:6-14**

*Today's reading is part of the introduction to the narrative of the outpouring of the Spirit on Pentecost. These verses tell of the risen Lord's conversation with his disciples on the eve of his ascension, in which he promises that they will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.*

<sup>6</sup>When [the apostles] had come together, they asked [Jesus], "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup>He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." <sup>9</sup>When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. <sup>10</sup>While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. <sup>11</sup>They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

<sup>12</sup>Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. <sup>13</sup>When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. <sup>14</sup>All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

### **PSALM: PSALM 68:1-10, 32-35** *(10:30 am sung responsively)*

*Sing to God, who rides upon the clouds. (Ps. 68:4)*

<sup>1</sup>Let God arise, and let God's ene-<sup>1</sup>mies be scattered;  
let those who <sup>1</sup>hate God flee.

<sup>2</sup>**As smoke is driven away, so you should drive <sup>1</sup> them away;  
as the wax melts before the fire, so let the wicked perish at the  
pres-<sup>1</sup>ence of God.**

<sup>3</sup>But let the righteous be glad and rejoice <sup>1</sup> before God;  
let them also be mer-<sup>1</sup>ry and joyful.

<sup>4</sup>**Sing to God, sing praises to God's name; exalt the one who <sup>1</sup> rides  
the clouds;**



**I AM is that name, rejoice<sup>1</sup> before God!**  
<sup>5</sup>In your holy habita-<sup>1</sup> tion, O God,  
 you are a father to orphans, defend-<sup>1</sup> er of widows;  
<sup>6</sup>**you give the solitary a home and bring forth prisoners<sup>1</sup> into freedom;**  
**but the rebels shall live in<sup>1</sup> desert places.**  
<sup>7</sup>O God, when you went forth be-<sup>1</sup> fore your people,  
 when you marched<sup>1</sup> through the wilderness,  
<sup>8</sup>**the earth quaked, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the<sup>1</sup> God of Sinai,**  
**at the presence of God, the<sup>1</sup> God of Israel.**  
<sup>9</sup>You sent a bountiful<sup>1</sup> rain, O God;  
 you restored your inheritance<sup>1</sup> when it languished.  
<sup>10</sup>**Your people found their<sup>1</sup> home in it;**  
**in your goodness, O God, you have made provision<sup>1</sup> for the poor.**  
<sup>32</sup>Sing to God, O kingdoms<sup>1</sup> of the earth;  
 sing praises<sup>1</sup> to the Lord.  
<sup>33</sup>**You ride in the heavens, O God, in the<sup>1</sup> ancient heavens;**  
**you send forth your voice, your<sup>1</sup> mighty voice.**  
<sup>34</sup>Ascribe pow-<sup>1</sup> er to God,  
 whose majesty is over Israel; whose strength is<sup>1</sup> in the skies.  
<sup>35</sup>**How wonderful you are in your holy places, O<sup>1</sup> God of Israel,**  
**giving strength and power to your people!<sup>1</sup> Blessed be God!**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11**

*Our faith in Christ does not make us immune from the scorn of others. Nevertheless, we are to resist the designs of evil when we experience disparagement from others because we trust God's grace will strengthen and guide us.*

<sup>12</sup>Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. <sup>13</sup>But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. <sup>14</sup>If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

<sup>5:6</sup>Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. <sup>7</sup>Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. <sup>8</sup>Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your



adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. <sup>9</sup>Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. <sup>10</sup>And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. <sup>11</sup>To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

*Stand*

## ALLELUIA VERSE



## GOSPEL: John 17:1-11

*On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus prays to his heavenly Father, asking that those who continue his work in this world will live in unity.*

*P The Holy Gospel according to John the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter.*



<sup>1</sup>After Jesus had spoken these words [to his disciples], he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup>since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup>And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup>I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup>So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup>“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup>for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup>I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom



you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup>And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

### The Gospel of the Lord.



*sit*

### **CHILDREN’S SERMON** (10:30 am)

#### **SERMON**

*Silence for reflection may follow.*

*Stand*

### **HYMN OF THE DAY LBW 440** *Christians, While on Earth Abiding*

*Stand*

#### **APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen**



## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A United in the hope and joy of the resurrection, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

*After each portion of the prayers:*

A ...Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

*The prayers conclude:*

P Rejoicing in the victory of Christ's resurrection, we lift our prayers and praise to you, almighty and eternal God; through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

**C Amen.**

## **PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

*The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

P Peace be with you      R Peace be with you.

**ANTHEM** *Ancient Words*.....Lynn DeShazo  
arr. by Mark Hayes

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A Generous God,  
in this meal you offer your very self.  
We give thanks for these gifts of the earth.  
In the breaking of this bread  
reveal to us the Risen One.  
In the pouring of this wine  
pour us out in service to the world;  
through Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**



# GREAT THANKSGIVING



P It is indeed right. . . (The preface appropriate to the day or season is said, Concluding). . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:





## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
who preached good news to the poor,  
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

*In the night... (The pastor proclaims the Words of Institution,  
concluding)...Do this for the remembrance of me.*

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.  
Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**C Amen**

## LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen**

*Sit*

## COMMUNION

*Share the bread and wine with one another with these words:  
The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
The communicant may say: Amen.*



## LAMB OF GOD



☩ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;

grant us peace, grant us peace.

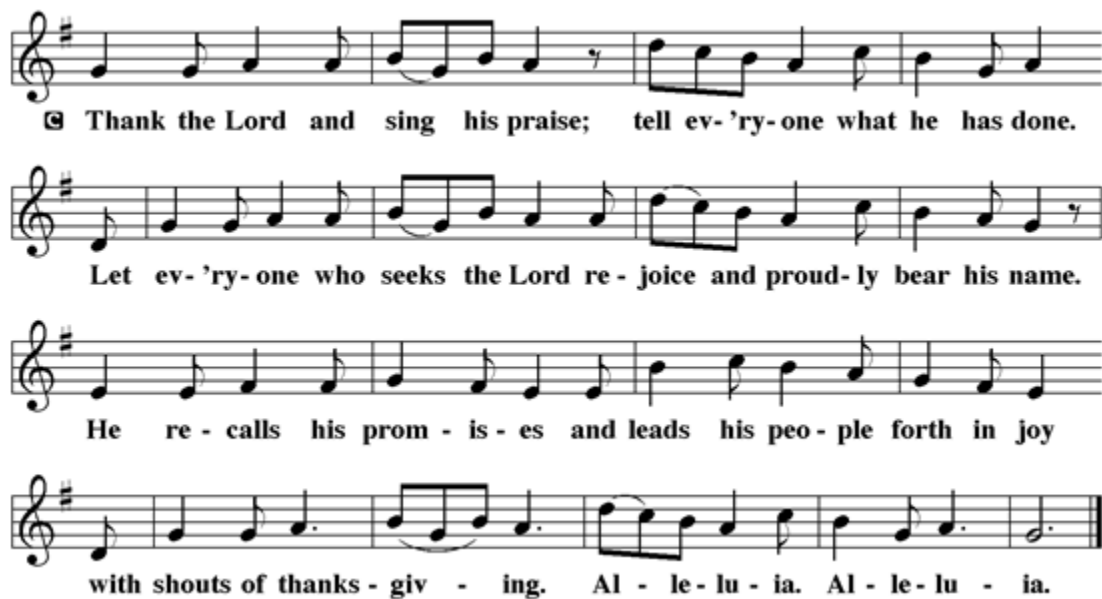
*All are invited forward. If you do not normally take communion, please cross your arms and you will be given a blessing. Children who do not take communion will receive a piece of bread with the words "Take and Eat.". Visitors, if you commune in your home congregation, you are welcome to commune here. (If you prefer juice rather than wine, please take one of the pre-filled glasses.)*

## BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you  
and keep you in his grace.

C Amen

## CANTICLE



☩ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.

Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - jice and proud-ly bear his name.

He re - calls his prom - is - es and leads his peo - ple forth in joy

with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.



## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A Gracious God,  
in you we live and move and have our being.  
With your word and this meal of grace,  
you have nourished our life together.  
Strengthen us to show your love  
and serve the world in Jesus' name.

**C Amen.**

## **SENDING**

*(10:30 am)*

## **AFGHAN PRESENTATION TO GRADUATING SENIORS**

*We congratulate our seniors (Braden Beck, Mia Clark, Jocelyn Jean, and Isaac Young), at this time and wish them Godspeed as they move on to the next chapters of their lives.*

## **BLESSING**

P The God of all,  
who raised ✠ Jesus from the dead,  
bless you by the power of the Holy Spirit  
to live in the new creation.

**C Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN WOV 780** *What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine*

## **DISMISSAL**

P Go in peace. Serve the Risen One.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *Redemption Song*.....Charles Gounod

Arr. by Ellen Jane Lorenz

*The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of  
Fred C. Schaefer, Jr. by the family.*



**PRAYER LIST: From our St. Luke Family:** Marian Owen (sister of Leah Lewis); Karen Knaur (wife of Chris Knaur); Jim Labenberg; Harry Collins and our homebound members.

**Family and friends:** Susan Breen (neighbor of Maria Daigle in ICU); Betsy Rider (friend of Nancy McCarty and Williamsport); Brent Bondura (stroke recovery, son-in-law of Barb and Bob McCullough).

For servicemen and women serving in posts far from home, and our servicemen and women readjusting to their lives here in the States.

For persistence and strength for those going through all types of recovery.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **This Sunday: May 21<sup>st</sup>, The Seventh Sunday after Easter**

#### **High School Senior Sunday**

8:00 am In-person Service

9:15 am Handbells; Adult Sunday School & Confirmation class

10:30 am In-person Service & Livestream

### **Calendar Week: May 22<sup>nd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup>**

*Sarah Young will be out of the office the week of May 22<sup>nd</sup>. During office work hours Pastor Jeff and volunteers will assist you. AFTER hours: If you are in need of emergency pastoral care, please call Pastor LeCrone directly at 570-220-3631.*

**Monday: 22<sup>nd</sup>** - Staff meeting 9:30am; Personnel 7:00 pm; set up BH for polling; BH set up

**Tuesday: 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Bell Hall in use

**Thursday: 25<sup>th</sup>** - Choir 7:00 pm offsite; Coin Club 7:00 pm BH

### **Next Sunday: May 28<sup>th</sup>, Pentecost Sunday**

8:00 am In-person Service

9:15 am Handbells; Adult Sunday School & Confirmation class

10:30 am In-person Service & Livestream

### **Serving in May at the 10:30 am worship service**

**Altar care** – Cindy Belles

**Ushers** – Jere Eshleman; Bob Borch (14<sup>th</sup>)

**May 21<sup>st</sup> 2023 High School Senior Sunday**

10:30 am **Lector** – Sue Beidler

**Communion Assistants** – Erick & Stephanie Fortin



## **May 28<sup>th</sup> Pentecost**

10:30 am **Lector** – Brad 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](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).

**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.

**SHARE A SMILE TODAY** and talk to someone you don't know. Spend a few minutes before or after the service. You'll soon see the difference it will make in our congregational life and to that first-time visitor. It's contagious!



**SENIOR HIGH STUDENTS** We are congratulating our 2023 graduating seniors **today** at the 10:30am service.  
*Braden Beck, Mia Clark, Jocelyn Jean, and Isaac Young.*

## **FROM THE OFFICE**

- *The Church Office will be closed for the Memorial Day Holiday on Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. If you are in need of emergency pastoral care during this time, please call Pastor LeCrone at 570-220-3631.*
- *While pastor Jeff is out of the office on vacation from June 6<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, Carol Johnson is on call for pastoral emergencies.*  
Carol Johnson may be reached at 570-772-6674 or by email [carolandshuman@verizon.net](mailto:carolandshuman@verizon.net).
- *We will welcome The Rev. David Byerly to the pulpit on Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>.*



**SUMMER WORSHIP** times are: 8 am and 9:30 am starting **June 11th** and Pentecost Sunday, May 28th will be the last Sunday for Choir, Adult Sunday School class, and handbell practices until the fall.

**CONFIRMATION SUNDAY** will be held **Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>** at the 10:30 am worship service. Coffee hour will follow the service in Bell Hall, please join us. All are welcome!



**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 **now - June 20.**

### **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](mailto:info@stlukeweb.com). *Thank you.*



### **HERO HOTLINE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup> – Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>

at Saint John's-Newberry United Methodist Church  
2101 Newberry Street, Williamsport

6:00 – 8:30 p.m. each evening

Designed for ages 4 – 12 and special abilities adults

- If you or someone you know would like to volunteer, please contact the church for the needed clearances. If possible, we would like to know about any interested volunteers **by May 22.**
- We need donations of T-shirts. The T-shirts could be youth or adult sizes, they can be used but clean, and one side (front or back) should be plain. These will be used to make capes for the kids, to go along with the Hero theme. There is a box in the West Hall for donations. We would like to have the T-shirts **by May 22.**

Registration forms are located in the West Hall. Please drop off or mail information by Sunday, July 9th to any participating church or to the office of: Saint John's-Newberry UMC, 2101 Newberry Street, Williamsport, PA 17701 or email to [secretary@stjnumc.com](mailto:secretary@stjnumc.com)



Participating Churches: *Christ Episcopal, First Church of Christ Disciples, New Covenant UCC, Saint John's-Newberry UMC, St. Luke and St. Mark's Lutheran, Sojourner Truth Ministries and Trinity Episcopal*

**THE UNITED CHURCHES FOOD PANTRY** (updated 5/10/23) is currently in need of: • Canned Goods (meats, vegetables, and fruits) • Cereals (any size) • Boxed Mixes (cakes, brownies, baking items) • Microwavable items • Condiments • Peanut Butter and Jelly • Puddings and Jell-O's

Located at the rear of 202 East Third St., Williamsport

Pantry Days and Hours:

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.

Closed the 5th Tuesday/Thursday

**SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS** (updated 5/10/23) Please remember us while you enjoy the summer. When shopping for your personal needs, consider purchasing a few additional items for the Hygiene Kit ministry. Our kits help recipients to stretch their monthly budgets. Listed below are a few things that we currently need: • Disposable Razors and Shaving Cream • Toilet Paper and Paper Towels • Men's and Women's Shampoo and Conditioner • Adult/Children's Toothbrushes and Toothpaste • Men's and Women's Body Wash and Deodorant • Wash Cloths and Bath Towels • Laundry pods (small packs – check at Dollar Tree) • Dish Detergent

**THE SERVICE MINISTRY** will be making 80 To-Go lunch bags for the Sojourners Truth Ministry on **Saturday, August 12**. As in the past, lunch bags will be assembled in Bell Hall. Volunteers are needed to make sandwiches starting at 9:00 am – finishing by 11:00 am.

- Donations of food items: any snack item, individually wrapped (granola bars, fruit bars, gummy packs, potato chip bags, etc.; homemade cookies (4 cookies to a bag) or store-bought cookies; sliced bread. We will be making at least 30 PB & J sandwiches.

We are making 80 lunch bags, so any number of snacks is appreciated. There will be a display of snack items in the West Hall, starting in June. Your support is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Marilyn Eshleman at 570-322-5202.



## **STAFF AT ST. LUKE**



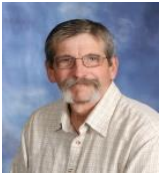
**Pastor Jeffrey LeCrone, Pastor**  
Email: [info@stlukeweb.com](mailto:info@stlukeweb.com)



**Sarah M. Young, Church Office Manager**  
Email: [info@stlukeweb.com](mailto:info@stlukeweb.com)



**Susan Horn, Interim Organist/Choir Director**  
Email: [info@stlukeweb.com](mailto:info@stlukeweb.com)



**Chris Knaur, Sexton**  
Email: [info@stlukeweb.com](mailto:info@stlukeweb.com)



**Melissa Eshleman, Business Manager**  
Email: [info@stlukeweb.com](mailto:info@stlukeweb.com)

**REMINDERS:** Office hours – M & T 9-12, 1-3; W, TH, F 9-1  
Bulletin 9:00 am – WEDNESDAY 9:00am  
Spectrum deadline – **15<sup>th</sup> of each month**  
Council Pack 9:00 am due – Friday 9:00 am before Mtg.  
Office e-mail – [info@stlukeweb.com](mailto:info@stlukeweb.com)