



ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
1400 MARKET ST., WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701
E-Mail: info@stlukeweb.com
St. Luke Online: www.stlukeweb.com

October

NEWSLETTER 2023



From the Pastor's Desk:
Rev. Jeffrey LeCrone

The J.O.Y. of Meeting Together

"...let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." – Hebrews 10:24-25

From time to time, we alter our worship times to take the opportunity to come together as one church body. In doing so, we provide an opportunity for "early church" and "late church" people to be together at one time. One of the more memorable times we've done this recently has been to celebrate the church's 125th anniversary in September of 2023.

On **October 15**, we'll be doing it once again, with only one worship service at 10:30 am. But unlike last September, the focus will not be on celebrating the past, but looking forward to the future.

This is the time of year when the Ministry for Support asks us all to consider our support of the church through our "time and talents". As part of an overarching effort to re-focus and re-commit to the church's mission statement, we will be dedicating October 15 to that idea. Immediately after the service, we will be holding a fried chicken luncheon at which various ministries of St. Luke Church will be present to share with us their current work, their vision for future ministry, and ways in which **you** can help!



St. Luke has been an important part of the Williamsport community for the last 125+ years. I am excited to see what the next 125 years will bring as we continue our focus on the joy of spreading the Gospel message and serving our neighbor in love. Holding a joint worship service is a great opportunity simply to see everyone who is part of this faith community. But this will be that, and then some. It is an opportunity to “spur one another on toward love and good deeds,” as the author of Hebrews encourages us to do.

Mark your calendars for October 15 and join us, as we “Experience the J.O.Y.”!



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**Serving in October at the 10:30 am worship service**

**Altar care** – Sondra Fisher

**Ushers** – 1<sup>st</sup> Chip Edmonds; 8<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> Brad Nason; 15<sup>th</sup> Keith Wood;  
22<sup>nd</sup> Bob Borch

**Greeters** – 1<sup>st</sup> Dawn & Jay NAu; 8<sup>th</sup> Hanne Schuman; 15<sup>th</sup> Nancy & Keith Wood;  
22<sup>nd</sup> Melanie Taormina & Carole Harris; 29<sup>th</sup> Sandy and Rod Strother

**Oct. 1st**

10:30 am **Lector** – Wilma Reeder

**Communion Assistants** – Patty Durand & Becky Lewis

**Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> Outdoor service**

10:30 am **Lector** – Charles Mahler

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

**Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>**

10:30 am **Lector** – Jay Nau

**Communion Assistants** – Charles Mahler & Nancy Wood

**Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>**

10:30 am **Lector** – Cheryl Newburg

**Communion Assistants** – Sandy & Rod Strother

**Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>**

10:30 am **Lector** – Brad Nason

**Communion Assistants** – Becky Lewis & TBA

**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.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY** The Outreach committee is looking for volunteers to be Greeters at the late service. If you are interested in this ministry, please contact Deb Smith at 570-762-3308.

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### **BLANKET SUNDAY**

On display, **Sunday, October 1<sup>st</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**  
**5 to our local hospice - The Gatehouse**  
**35 to our local Family Promise**  
**40 to Project Linus (also 5 Knitted/crocheted blankets)**

*Thank you to everyone who donated fabric, thread, and hours of time to make this possible, and a special thank you to Thrivent for providing money to purchase batting and other items to complete these quilts.*

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**SEW FINE QUILTERS** next meeting will be **Monday, Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>** 9:00am – 3:00pm in Bell Hall. Come and go as your time permits. If possible, please join us for a provided lunch at 12 Noon.



**FAITH MATTERS** sessions at New Trail Brewing (240 Arch St. building 18, Williamsport, PA 17701), dates (all at 6:00 p.m.): **Sunday, Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>**. Faith Matters is a time of informal and open-ended discussion on issues of life and faith. There's no agenda (topics are usually chosen when we get there), and all opinions are welcomed. A food truck is available for those who would like to eat their evening meal while we talk, and non-alcoholic options are available. Join us for great fellowship and conversation!

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**OUTDOOR SERVICE** Our next outdoor service will be **Sunday, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am weather permitting**, in the front courtyard and live streamed. Due to inclement weather, the service will be held in the nave. (please bring a chair) The 8:00 am service will remain indoors.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS** for a single worship time on **Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**. From time to time, combining our two worship services as one gives us the opportunity to worship as one single church family. The St. Luke Council has recently decided to plan one of those times for this October. On **Sunday, October 15<sup>th</sup>**, we will combine the two services at 10:30 am. Immediately following the service, all are invited to a luncheon afterwards (featuring chicken from Giant Foods). During this luncheon, representatives from several of our ministries will be available to provide information on what they've been doing and how more people can be involved. Please join us on this rare opportunity to worship as one unified church family as we continue to "Experience the J.O.Y.!"

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### COFFEE HOUR

There will be a Coffee Hour after the late service on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month, immediately after the church service (11:30AM) in Bell Hall. Also, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, Coffee Hour will begin at 9AM following the early service in the chapel. Join us for refreshments and fellowship! Please consider volunteering for a coffee hour. A sign-up sheet is located on the bulletin board directly across from the chapel. If you have any questions, contact a member of the Fellowship Ministry.

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Our community's annual walk to fight hunger, the CROP Walk, is scheduled for **Sunday, October 8, 2023**. Registration and Walk will begin at 1pm in front of St. Mark's Lutheran Church (142 Market Street). **Crop Walk forms will be available soon for pick up in the West Hall!** Or register online at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2023>





**BSA Pack & Troop 12**  
**St. Luke Lutheran Church**



**German Style Dinner**

October 7, 2023 from 4:30pm -7:00pm  
Eat in or Take Out

Breaded Fried Pork Chops (Schnitzel)  
German Style Red Cabbage  
German Egg Pasta (Spaetzle)  
Brown Gravy w/Mushrooms  
German Apple Cake

Prices are all-inclusive  
Adults - \$12  
Children (ages 3-10) - \$7

**Join us at St. Luke Lutheran Church 1400 Market St. Williamsport**  
**Call 272-202-4827 for tickets**  
**Walk-ins are welcome!**



**SHAWL MINISTRY**

When members or friends of the congregation experience trying times or milestones of great joy, we present them with a prayer shawl as a visible sign of our prayers for them. Shawls can be knitted at monthly meetings held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month (Sept.- May) or any time at home. The first meeting is on **Tuesday, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am -12 noon** in the Lounge. All are welcome!



## ANNUAL ORGAN CRAWL

The Chemung Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists invites you to an *Autumn Jaunt* in Williamsport and Muncy. This tour of several pipe organs at different locations in our area will start in Williamsport at **9:30 a.m. on October 14th at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 1400 Market Street;** St. Boniface Catholic Church, 326

Washington Blvd at 10:45 a.m.; Covenant-Central Presbyterian Church, 807 West 4th Street at 1:30 p.m.; Philip Zuckerberg Residence, 1732 Clarion Drive at 2:45 p.m.; and will finish at Muncy Presbyterian Church, 10 East Penn Street at 3:45 p.m. Any questions, please email [davelen@epix.net](mailto:davelen@epix.net) or [elizabethbrig@aol.com](mailto:elizabethbrig@aol.com)



**SILENT RETREAT**  
**CALVARY HILL MINISTRIES**  
607.432.4926  
[calvaryhillretreat.org](http://calvaryhillretreat.org)  
[calvaryhillretreat@yahoo.com](mailto:calvaryhillretreat@yahoo.com)

There will be a Silent Retreat at Mt. Saviour Monastery in Pine City, NY, November 10-12. The Retreat is being sponsored by Calvary Hill Ministries and is being offered at a reduced rate. During the Retreat there will be presentations on Lectio Divina and Centering Prayer. Also, group Centering Prayer sessions will be held for those interested in participating. The discount being offered will be at least \$40 off the normal cost at Mt. Saviour Monastery and depends on the number of participants. Slots are limited. Pre-registration is required and is expected to close October 10th. For more information email [calvaryhillretreat@yahoo.com](mailto:calvaryhillretreat@yahoo.com) or call 607.432.4926.

## CML



On Friday, October 27, 2023, Camp Mount Luther will have their annual **Evening at Shade Mountain Winery**. This is a fundraising opportunity to share fellowship, entertainment, and locally produced wine, all to benefit Camp Mount Luther. There will be a limit of 50 people for this year's event, which will run from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Entertainment will be provided by Jason P. Yoder, a local acoustic musician. Menu to include heavy appetizers, desserts, and a complementary glass of wine. Make reservations at 570-922- 1587 or [cml@campmountluther.org](mailto:cml@campmountluther.org). Cost is a donation. If you choose to purchase any bottles of wine that evening, camp receives a portion of the proceeds.



## Lycoming County Helping Our Warriors

Each Sunday we pray for those serving in our military at home, abroad and those returning home from their service. This Veteran's Day you will have the opportunity to honor those who are currently serving or who have served their country by sponsoring a 5-inch American Flag. These flags will be placed in the flower beds November 9<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> along with a banner saying "Lest We Forget". The cost for the sponsorship of each flag is \$5.00. The proceeds will be given to the Lycoming County Helping Our Warriors Charity.

Lycoming County Helping Our Warriors is a non-profit group that assists active military members and veterans with necessary costs (that are not covered by other agencies) to live a healthy life. They have paid utility bills, medical bills, overdue property taxes, provided oil in the winter, and rent and security deposits. They have helped veterans with Christmas gifts for their children and have sent overseas care packages working with our local VFWs. They have also helped a local veteran who had a brain tumor removed and out of work by paying their rent for two months.

The deadline for sponsoring a flag is **October 31st**. Please complete the form below. Make check payable to St. Luke and put "Flags for Veterans" in the memo.

In Honor of:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of service \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_





## *To our members celebrating a birthday in October ....*

|                      |            |
|----------------------|------------|
| Daniel Taormina      | October 02 |
| Charleen Whittaker   | October 04 |
| Jan Matz             | October 06 |
| Brooks Durand        | October 07 |
| Kristin Beck         | October 10 |
| Julia Desisto-Peters | October 10 |
| Margot Briggs        | October 12 |
| Christine Pysher     | October 13 |
| Wanda Gardner        | October 14 |
| Deb Bernocco         | October 16 |
| Howard Cowles        | October 16 |
| Marian Owen          | October 16 |
| Daniel Taormina      | October 16 |
| Bob Borch            | October 17 |
| Carl Hiller          | October 17 |
| Dawn Nau             | October 18 |
| Mary Beth Kibbe      | October 20 |
| Becky Lewis          | October 20 |
| Trish Whelan         | October 20 |
| Mary Hutchison       | October 22 |
| Kaye Blair           | October 24 |

## *Happy Anniversary.....*

Bob & Barbara McCullough Oct. 2  
 Lenny & Lee Bellott Oct. 4  
 Roger & Shelby Wyland Oct. 4  
 James & Kristin Beck, Jr. Oct. 12  
 Mike & Sarah Young Oct. 13  
 Allan & Roseann Husband Oct. 24

*(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



*Thank you to everyone who purchased mums from our fundraiser.*



**WEIS MEMBERS** The Pre-School at St. Luke is again partnering up with Weis Markets in the **Weis 4 School** program.

THE PRE-SCHOOL AT ST LUKE



Educational technology and funding changes daily. To keep up with these changes and expenses, our school is partnering with Weis Markets in their annual Weis 4 School program. By participating in this program, we can earn money for our school by simply shopping. When you shop at Weis, scan the bar code above to register your Weis Rewards card or register online at [weis4school.com](http://weis4school.com). Once you register, you're in the program and you do not need to register again this school year. Please share this bar code with your friends and family. The more interest and enthusiasm we generate, the greater the benefits to our school.

**Thank you for your support.**



# U S S A R K

News from the Upper Susquehanna Synod, [uss-elca.org](http://uss-elca.org)  
*United as Christ's Disciples, we Support one another; and Serve God in the World*



Learning More About the Holy Trinity Camp Mount Luther recently ended their summer camping season. Around 388 participants took part in programs during the eight week session. Before campers arrived, the staff participated in two weeks of intense training. Upper Susquehanna Synod Bishop Craig A. Miller installed staff on June 16, 2023, at the Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly at Susquehanna University.

This summer, 191 campers enjoyed on-site programs including mini, day, traditional, 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 "Holy Trinity, Wholly Love." Campers and staff enter into the wonder and truth of the Trinity in order to know God more fully and know ourselves more wholly. They learned about God, the provider; Jesus, the rescuer; the Holy Spirit, the ignitor; and how we are invited into the dance of the Trinity and should invite others into it, too. Through the camp's method of studying the Bible, called "GROW Time," staff helped campers Gather and Reflect On the Word throughout their day, culminating in an evening worship service.

Some highlights from this summer included: a bicycle trip on the Union County Rails to Trails, Servant and Leadership Training and X-Teen camp for Senior High, and "Tracks" allowing elementary and middle schoolers to spend more time in a specialty area during their week. A Family Camp was also held for participants of all ages. The adult Bible studies were led by Revs. Gary and Stina Schaeffer of Selinsgrove.



Again, this summer, there were several off-site camps at local churches, led by Mount Luther staff. This year, 197 campers were able to experience camp through these off-site opportunities. Off site day camps were held at Zion Lutheran, Turbotville; Trinity Lutheran and Lost Creek Presbyterian, McAlisterville; 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, Creamer; and Zion, Sunbury.

**Camp Mount Luther** is pleased to announce the addition of a new part time staff member. Rev. Barbara J. Collins of Selinsgrove began her work on June 1 as the campaign coordinator for Foundations for the Future, a two million-dollar fundraising campaign that is in its beginning stages. Collins is also serving as campaign co-chair alongside Timothy Apple of Lewisburg. As campaign coordinator, Collins will oversee the administrative work of the campaign and will provide support to the camp administration and their fundraising consultants, GSB Fundraising.



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### From Bishop Craig Miller



Today I was thinking about the days of autumn. While I do not relish the shorter hours of daylight and the feeling of death that comes as the trees lose their leaves and the fields turn brown, I have always enjoyed brisk mornings and cooler temperatures.

One of the great joys I find in autumn comes when the sun shines warmth through the cool air. I feel as if I am in my own spot of comfort while all around me is chilly and damp. I begin to understand the contented looks on the faces of our cats when they sprawl in front of a sunny window on a cold winter day. It is almost as if the sun shines just for me and for my comfort.

Thinking about those autumn days, I find myself turning to prayer. Not just any prayer, but a form of prayer not unlike basking in the warm rays of the sun. In this form of prayer, I let myself rest in God's Word and feel God's warmth as it penetrates my skin into my heart.

We hear the words from John's gospel prologue: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it," and we are told that we are children of the light: through these words, the Son shines on us, warms us and wards us from the cold and dark of the world.

The hymn says, "I want to walk as a child of the light." To do this, I must spend time in the light. This then will be my prayer, to let the light of Christ shine on me and to rest in the warmth of God's love. May you also feel the joy of God's shining on you.

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## **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)**



**Rebecca Ciabattari, Organist/Choir Director**  
**Email: [beckyciab@gmail.com](mailto:beckyciab@gmail.com)**



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



**Melissa Eshleman, Business Manager**  
**Email: [businessmanager.stlukeluth@gmail.com](mailto:businessmanager.stlukeluth@gmail.com)**

**ST. LUKE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**1400 Market Street, Williamsport, PA, (570) 323-7309**  
**E-Mail: [info@stlukeweb.com](mailto:info@stlukeweb.com)**  
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