



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

***Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 24, 2023
8:00AM & 10:30AM***

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*Matthew narrates one of Jesus' controversial parables in which Jesus says that the reign of God is like that of a landowner who pays his workers the same wage no matter what time of day they began to work. When God changes God's mind about punishing Nineveh for their evil ways, Jonah is angry. Yet God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love. In baptism we receive the grace of God that is freely given to all. As Martin Luther wrote, in the presence of God's mercy we are all beggars.*  
~~~~~

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Ubi Caritas*, plainchant melody, Charles Callahan, arr.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

P Blessed be God, the one who forms us,
✙ Jesus who bears the cross,
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility,
confessing our sin.

Steadfast and faithful God,
C **you have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you.**
**We are overwhelmed
by the world's violence and suffering.**
**We are afraid to risk what we have
for the sake of others.**

**For the harm we have caused,
known and unknown, forgive us.
For the unjust demands we place on others
and your creation, forgive us.
For the ways we turn away
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.
Lead us back to you
and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Beloved in Christ,
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God's compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
In ✠ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.
C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN LBW 405 *Lord of Light*

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(read in unison)*

**Almighty and eternal God, you show perpetual lovingkindness to us
your servants. Because we cannot rely on our own abilities, grant us
your merciful judgment, and train us to embody the generosity of
your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

WORD

Sit

FIRST READING: Jonah 3:10--4:11

After Jonah's short sermon in 3:4, the Ninevites all repented and God decided to spare the city. Jonah objected to this and became even more angry when God ordered a worm to destroy a plant that was providing shade. The book ends with a question that challenges any who are not ready to forgive: You, Jonah, are all

worked up about a bush, but shouldn't I be concerned about a hundred and twenty thousand Ninevites?

¹⁰When God saw what [the people of Ninevah] did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

^{4:1}But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. ²He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. ³And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." ⁴And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" ⁵Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

⁶The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. ⁷But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. ⁸When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live."

⁹But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." ¹⁰Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. ¹¹And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

PSALM: PSALM 145:1-8 (*bold sung responsively*)

The LORD is slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. (Ps. 145:8)

¹I will exalt you, my ¹ God and king,
and bless your name forev- ¹ er and ever.

²**Every day ¹ will I bless you**
and praise your name forev- ¹ er and ever.

³Great is the LORD and greatly ¹ to be praised!
There is no end ¹ to your greatness.

⁴**One generation shall praise your works ¹ to another**

and shall de-¹clare your power.

⁵I will speak of the glorious splendor¹ of your majesty
and all your¹ marvelous works.

**⁶They shall tell of the might of your¹ wondrous acts,
and I will re-¹count your greatness.**

⁷They shall publish the remembrance of¹ your great goodness;
they shall sing joyfully¹ of your righteousness.

**⁸The LORD is gracious and full¹ of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in¹ steadfast love.**

SECOND READING: Philippians 1:21-30

Paul writes to the Philippians from prison. Though he is uncertain about the outcome of his imprisonment, he is committed to the ministry of the gospel and calls on the Philippians to live lives that reflect and enhance the gospel mission.

²¹For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²²If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—³⁰since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Stand

ALLELUIA VERSE



GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16

Jesus tells a parable about God's generosity, challenging the common assumption that God rewards people according to what they have earned or deserve.

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 20th chapter.



[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. ³When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. ⁶And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ ⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not

agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



sit

SERMON

Silence for reflection may follow.

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY WOV 734 *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*

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

P Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence.

After each portion of the prayers:

P Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

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 "*Amazing Grace*," Traditional, John Coates, Jr., arr.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P God of power, God of plenty,
all things belong to you.
We bring your gifts to the table,
that all might be fed.
Form us into the body of your Beloved,
Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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:

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy God,
our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,
in the harmonious world of your creation,
the plants and animals,
the seas and stars
were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world,
you sent your Son to heal our ills
and to form us again into one.

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

Remembering, therefore,
his acts of healing,
his body given up,
and his victory over death,
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.
Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both 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




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-joice 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

P Blessed be your name, O God,
for we have feasted on your Word,
Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.
Strengthened by this food,
send us to gather the world to your banquet,
where none are left out and all are satisfied.
In Jesus' name we pray.

C Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

P The God of glory,
✠ Jesus Christ, name above all names,
and the Spirit who lives in you,
bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN LBW 469 *Lord of All Hopefulness*

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. God is at work in you.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Wachet Auf*, Philipp Nicolai, Charles Callahan, arr.

The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Audrey and Charles Duchman by Sue and Charlie Duchman.

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PRAYER LIST: From our St. Luke Family: Barbara Coates; Debbie Smith; Jeffrey Bobst; Jim Labenberg; Sandy Moyer; Marian Owen (sister of Leah Lewis); Karen Knaur (wife of Chris Knaur); and our homebound members.

Family and friends: Chris Krebs (friend of the Mahler family); Nadine Kinley (family of Deb Smith); Kathy Eshleman; Pat Bernocco (husband of Deb Bernocco); 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: Sept. 24th, The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

8:00 am In-person Service

9:15am-10:00am Handbells; Adult Sunday School

10:30 am In-person Service & Livestream

11:30 am –Property Meeting

6:00 pm Faith Matters at New Trail

Calendar Week: Sept. 25th -30th

Monday: 25th – Staff meeting; Personnel 7:00pm

Tuesday: 26th – Pericope 9:30am Lib.

Wednesday: 27th – Mutual Ministry workshop 7:00pm BH

Thursday: 28th - Choir 7:00pm; Coin Club 7:00pm BH

Saturday: 30th – KidsPeace TBA BH

Next Sunday: October 1st, The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Blanket Sunday

8:00 am In-person Service

9:15am-10:00am Handbells; Adult Sunday School

9:30 am - Fellowship Meeting

10:30 am - In-person Service & Livestream

Coffee Hour

Serving in September at the 10:30 am worship service

Altar care – Cindy Belles; **Ushers** – Terry Belles **24th**

Greeters – **24th** – Sue Beidler

Communion Assistants – Charles Mahler & Nancy Wood

Sept. 24th

10:30 am **Lector** – Sandy Lentz

Communion Assistants – Marilyn Eshleman & Hanne Schuman

Serving in October at the 10:30 am worship service

Altar care – Sondra Fisher

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

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

Oct. 1st

10:30 am **Lector** – Wilma Reeder

Communion Assistants – Patty Durand & Becky Lewis

FROM THE OFFICE *Sarah Young will be out of the office Oct. 2nd through Oct. 9th. During office work hours Pastor Jeff and a volunteer will assist you. AFTER hours: If you are in need of emergency pastoral care, please call Pastor LeCrone directly at 570-220-3631.*

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).

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.

COFFEE HOUR There will be a Coffee Hour after the late service on the 1st Sunday of each month, immediately after the church service (11:30AM) in Bell Hall. Also, on the 3rd 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.



FAITH MATTERS sessions at New Trail Brewing (240 Arch St. building 18, Williamsport, PA 17701), dates (all at 6:00 p.m.): **Today, Sept. 24th & Oct. 8th**. 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!

THE JOY OF DISCIPLESHIP Join us this fall as we take the first of a series of “deeper dives” into discipleship. This six-week course will explore what it means to be a disciple, especially in the context of our church’s mission statement: “Experience the **J.O.Y.**: Come and Worship, Go and Serve”.



We'll explore how to put **JESUS** at the center of our lives, and how doing so affects our relationship with **OTHERS**, as well as our individual lives (**YOU**).

The meeting times will be announced in a few weeks, but the first step is to build an interest list. That way, we can tailor the meeting times to those interested so that we can minimize the number of people who can't do it because of scheduling. If you are interested call the church office (570 323-7309) or email Pastor Jeff at pastor@stlukeluth.comcastbiz.org by **Monday, September 25**.

BLANKET SUNDAY On display next **Sunday, October 1st** 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.

SEW FINE QUILTERS next meeting will be **Monday, Oct. 2nd** 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.



**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!

OUTDOOR SERVICE Our next outdoor service will be **Sunday, Oct. 8th 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. The 8:00 am service will remain indoors.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for a single worship time on **Sunday, October 15**. 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**, 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."!

STAFF AT ST. LUKE



Pastor Jeffrey LeCrone, Pastor
Email: pastor@stlukeluth.comcastbiz.org



Sarah M. Young, Church Office Manager
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REMINDERS: Office hours – M & T 9-12, 1-3; W, TH, F 9-1
Bulletin 9:00 am – WEDNESDAY 9:00am
Spectrum deadline – **15th of each month**
Council Pack 9:00 am due – Friday 9:00 am before Mtg.
Office e-mail – info@stlukeweb.com