



ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
1400 MARKET ST., WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701
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St. Luke Online: www.stlukeweb.com

September

NEWSLETTER 2023



From the Pastor's Desk:

The J.O.Y. of Discipleship

"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

Back in May, I shared with you in this space that I had been reflecting on the stated mission of St. Luke Church: "Experience the J.O.Y.: Come and worship, go and serve." In that article, I explained that "J.O.Y." is an acronym, standing for Jesus, Others, and You, and I stated my intention to commit more fully to that mission.

To that end, I would like to announce that this fall I will be launching the first of what I hope will be several programs designed to help all of us live more fully into our mission. I am calling it "The J.O.Y. of Discipleship". It will involve Bible Study, Luther's small catechism, and group discussion as we 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**).



This first round of “The J.O.Y. of Discipleship” will focus on:

- Being able to articulate the Gospel message and identify what it means to you
- Following Jesus’ call to love our neighbors
- Exploring how God has uniquely gifted each one of us for ministry and how we can develop those gifts

The meeting time for Disciple’s J.O.Y. is still TBA. Instead of stating an arbitrary time, I will be developing an “interest list” and negotiating a time among those who sign up. That way, we can find a time (or times!) that will best accommodate as many people who would like to participate. Call or email the church office to join the list!

I hope that you will join me in experiencing, and helping others experience, the J.O.Y.!



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**Serving in September at the 9:30 am worship service**

**Altar care** – Cindy Belles

**Ushers** – Terry Belles 3<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>; Keith Wood 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>

**Greeters** – **Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Patty & Doug Durand; **10<sup>th</sup>** – Rachelle & Jeff Jones; **17<sup>th</sup>** – Deb Smith; **24<sup>th</sup>** – Sue Beidler

**Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup>**

9:30 am **Lector** – Sue Beidler

**Communion Assistants** – Marilyn Eshleman & Hanne Schuman

**Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> Worship Time Change**

10:30 am **Lector** – Melanie Taormina

**Communion Assistants** – Mark Bergren & Becky Lewis

**Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>**

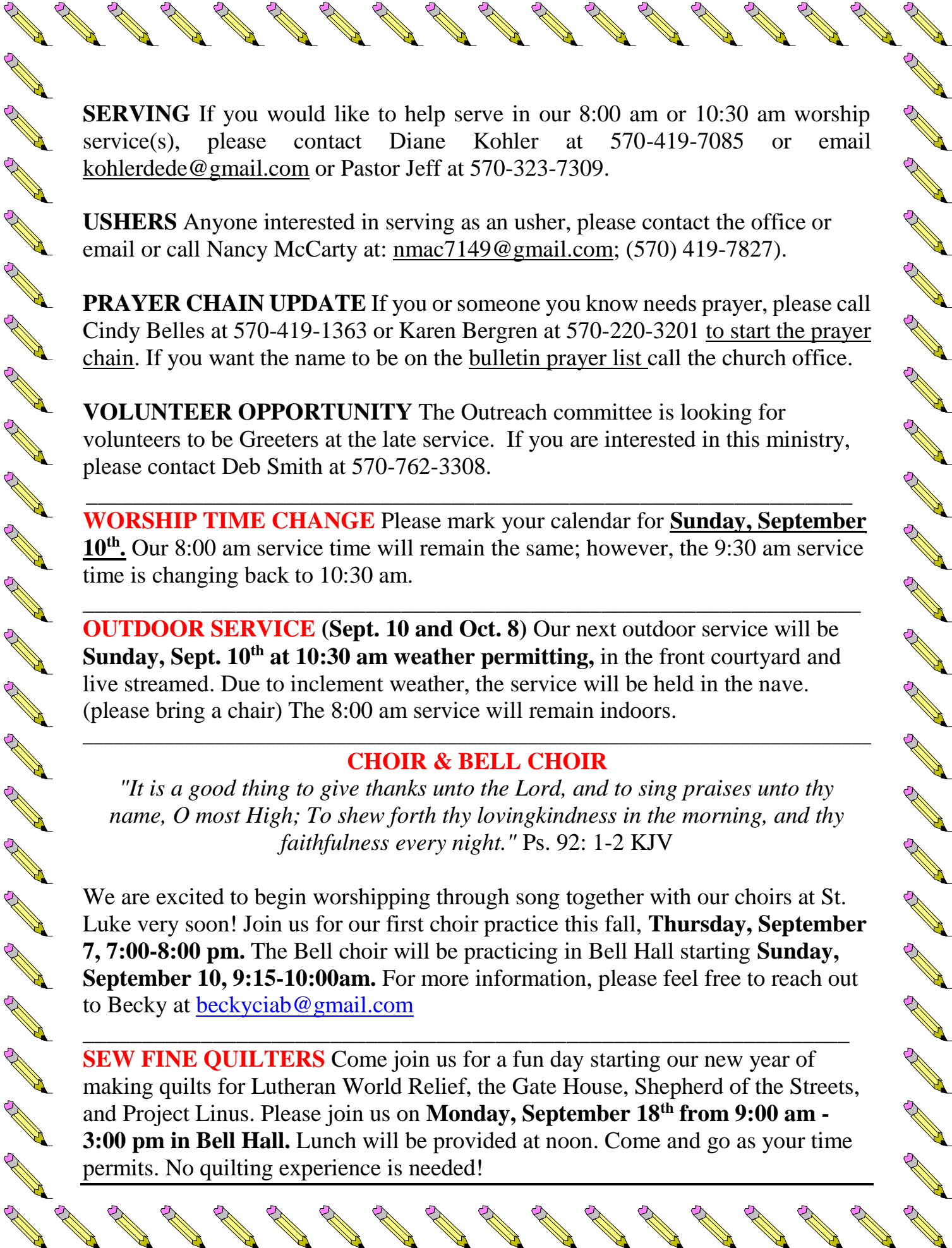
10:30 am **Lector** – Scott Seyler

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

**Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>**

10:30 am **Lector** – Sandy Lentz

**Communion Assistants** – Marilyn Eshleman & 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.

**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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**WORSHIP TIME CHANGE** Please mark your calendar for **Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>**. Our 8:00 am service time will remain the same; however, the 9:30 am service time is changing back to 10:30 am.

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**OUTDOOR SERVICE (Sept. 10 and Oct. 8)** Our next outdoor service will be **Sunday, Sept. 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.

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### **CHOIR & BELL CHOIR**

*"It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High; To shew forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night." Ps. 92: 1-2 KJV*

We are excited to begin worshipping through song together with our choirs at St. Luke very soon! Join us for our first choir practice this fall, **Thursday, September 7, 7:00-8:00 pm**. The Bell choir will be practicing in Bell Hall starting **Sunday, September 10, 9:15-10:00am**. For more information, please feel free to reach out to Becky at [beckyciab@gmail.com](mailto:beckyciab@gmail.com)

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**SEW FINE QUILTERS** Come join us for a fun day starting our new year of making quilts for Lutheran World Relief, the Gate House, Shepherd of the Streets, and Project Linus. Please join us on **Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm in Bell Hall**. Lunch will be provided at noon. Come and go as your time permits. No quilting experience is needed!

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**COFFEE HOUR UPDATE** *Fall* Coffee Hours begin **September 17**. 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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**PRE-SCHOOL MUM SALE** The sale has begun and will continue through **September 15<sup>th</sup>**. Certificates will be available for sale at the church office for \$8.00 each and can be redeemed for one 9-inch mum (choice of color based on availability) at **The Pre-school at St. Luke on September 21 from 1:00 pm – 7:00pm.**

To make arrangements to purchase a mum coupon(s) directly from the Pre-School, please call Diane Gonzalez at 570-971-2422.  
(checks payable to: *The Pre-School at St. Luke*)

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### **FAITH MATTERS**



We have received several inquiries about reviving our "Faith Matters" sessions at New Trail Brewing this summer, so here are some dates (all at 6:00 p.m.): **Sept 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</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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## 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, September 19<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am -12 noon** in the Lounge. All are welcome!

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**SCHOOL KITS NEEDED** Requests for School Kits are coming in faster than Lutheran World Relief can keep up. Let's take advantage of summer sales and send in our goal of 50 this year. Again, backpacks are being made by St. Luke volunteers. We are asking you to purchase the supplies listed below and bring them to the church by **September 24<sup>th</sup>**.

- 70 sheet notebooks of ruled paper, 8"x 10 ½"
  - Black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)
  - 30-centimeter ruler or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other.
  - Pencil sharpeners
  - Blunt scissors  
(safety scissors with embedded steel blades)
  - Box of 16 or 24 crayons
  - Unsharpened pencils with erasers
- 



The Third Annual Project Linus Make a Blanket Day will be held at St. Luke Lutheran Church on **Saturday, September 23rd, from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm** with lunch and snacks provided. Help is needed to

assemble and tie quilts, hand-tie fleece blankets, and assemble granny square blankets. We will also be a drop-off point that day for donations of completed blankets, or blanket-making supplies like batting, fabric, yarn, and fleece blanket kits. For more information, please call Dawn Nau at 503-686-4968.

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**Camp Mount Luther Dandelion Run!** Camp Mount Luther will be holding a 5- and 10- kilometer trail run race at the camp on **Saturday, September 2, 2023**. This is an entry level trail race on Mount Luther grounds with proceeds going to the camp. The start time for the race is 9:00 a.m. Runners decide on race day if they want to do a 5k or 10K (a double loop of the 5K) run. **Registration is \$35**. Registration opens at 7:30 a.m. on race day. Shower facilities are available after the race. All miles for the course will be marked, and there is one water stop on the course. There will also be a Kids Fun Run! The age groups are 6 and under and 7- 10. Special awards will be presented to every participant in the fun run. Again, this year there will be a one-mile fun walk! Same registration fees and amenities apply. Walk will be on a dirt road. Timing will be electronically done. To register, visit <https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/Mifflinburg/DandelionRun5k10kTrailRace>. There will be an awards ceremony following the races.



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!**

Walkers can walk 3, 6, or 9 miles on the River Walk. Other structured opportunities will be in Hughesville, Quiggleville, and Trout Run. You or members of your congregation may wish to walk on your own or create another location!

This year is our 45th Walk, and to date, we have raised over 1 million dollars to help stop hunger! Last year we raised almost \$9,000. Thank you for doing your part to fight hunger both locally and globally. Of the money we raise, 25% goes to our community and is distributed equally among the New Love Center in Jersey Shore, the Sonlight House of Muncy, the United Churches of Lycoming County's Food Pantry, and Sojourner Truth Ministries. The other 75% is distributed by Church World Service nationally and internationally to help hungry people.

### **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.*

# THE PRE-SCHOOL AT ST. LUKE



Mrs. Strobble

## Contact Info

School Phone  
570.323.2705

Personal Phone  
570.447.2876

## Meet the TEACHER about me

Hello! I am so excited to be one of your preschool teachers this year! This will be my thirteenth year teaching at The Pre-School at St. Luke, and I am looking forward to meeting all of you.

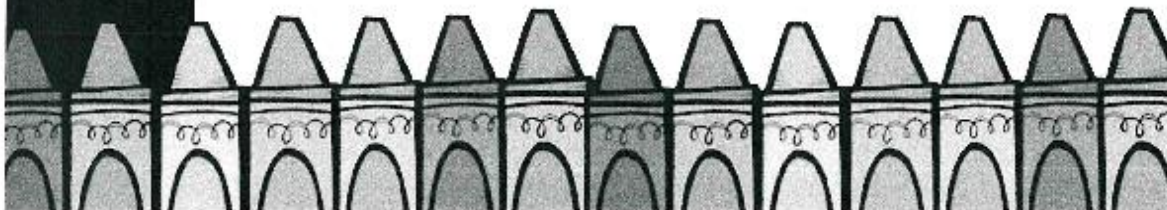
My husband and I built a log home in Nippenose Valley in 1994, and we have two beautiful daughters, Hannah who is 23 and Emily who is 19.

## experience

I possess an associate's degree from Pennsylvania College of Technology in Early Childhood Education and a bachelor's degree from Lock Haven University in Elementary Education. I started teaching at The Preschool at St. Luke's in 2009 and became director in 2015.

## things i love

- Spending time with my family
- Teaching
- Cooking
- Shopping
- Visiting my daughter in Lancaster





# meet the TEACHER



## WELCOME TO OUR CLASS!

My name is Mrs. Lindsay Sartori and I will be one of your child's teachers! I am excited to learn and grow with you this year. This year will be full of learning, sharing, and having a ton of fun! I look forward to getting to know you and working together to make your child's days at preschool amazing!

## A LITTLE ABOUT ME

I graduated from Clarion University of PA. I have previously taught at the preschool level, including here at The Pre-School at St. Luke last year, and enjoy this age group so much! I am married to Chad, have 2 children, Sofia (6<sup>th</sup> grade) and Jameson (Kindergarten), and live in Duboistown!

## MY FAVES

- \*Color: Black, Pink, and Animal Print ☺
- \*Food: Pizza and Chicken
- \*Candy: anything chocolate!
- \*Season: Summer
- \*Hobby: traveling with family and friends
- \*Flower: Sunflower

## CLASS MOTTO



Be Safe!  
Be Kind!  
Be Helpful!

## CONTACT ME

During pre-school hours/days at the pre-school phone number!  
(570) 323-2705



# Meet the Teacher

## MRS. MORROW



BE SAFE! BE KIND!  
BE HELPFUL!

### ABOUT Me:

My name is Mrs. Stacey Morrow and I am so excited to be one of your child's teachers this year! My family and I moved to Williamsport from Bethlehem, PA nearly 3 years ago and we have loved our time here in Central PA. I am married to Doug and we have three children, Lucas, Emma and Maggie and four cats, Malcolm, Cooper, Avi and Poguey. In my spare time I enjoy volunteering with my son's school, Cochran Primary School, gardening and running. I will be running in my 5th half marathon in October 2023! This is going to be a fantastic year full of fun and learning and I can't wait to spend it with your child!

### MY FAVORITES:

Food: Lasagna & Pizza  
Hobby: Running & Gardening  
Flowers: Hydrangeas  
Drink: Coffee  
Season: Fall  
Sport: Football & Track  
Candy: Reese's Fast Break  
Color: Coral  
Animal: Cats (of course!)

### Education:

I graduated from Bucknell University in 2009 and went on to earn my master's degree from Eastern University graduating in 2012. While at Bucknell, I competed in Division I Track and Field.

### CONTACT INFORMATION:

☎ 570-323-2705

I can be reached at the Pre-School phone number during school hours.



*To our members celebrating a birthday in September ....*

|                      |              |
|----------------------|--------------|
| Megan Croyle         | September 01 |
| Shelby Wyland        | September 01 |
| Kayla Scampone       | September 04 |
| Isaac Young          | September 05 |
| David Byerly         | September 06 |
| Joshua Bernocco      | September 07 |
| Carole Steiger       | September 09 |
| Mike Young           | September 09 |
| Schane Confer        | September 11 |
| Rick Gonzalez        | September 12 |
| Charlotte Miller     | September 15 |
| Chris Knaur          | September 17 |
| Sue Beidler          | September 19 |
| Andrew Reed          | September 24 |
| Susan Harvey         | September 25 |
| Glenda Merkel        | September 25 |
| Mark Bergren         | September 26 |
| Ann Hilner           | September 26 |
| Erin Edmonds         | September 27 |
| Barbara Loudenslager | September 27 |
| Jack Snyder, Sr.     | September 27 |

*Happy Anniversary.....*

Karl and Janet Yoas September 21  
Eugene and Carole Steiger September 24

*(We're sorry if we missed anyone. If we did, please contact the office so we can add you to our records.)*

## **Gone Fishing!**

By: Pastor Kathy F. Burkhart, 565 Elm Drive, Hughesville, PA 17737, Independent Pastor at Sonrise Vision/North Mountain Stone Heap Charge in Millville/Unityville



After Jesus' resurrection, the disciples embarked on a fishing evening. So the disciples headed out to the Sea of Galilee, but they caught absolutely nothing. The disciples struggled all night to catch some fish. It wasn't that the disciples did not have the right equipment. Without the presence of fish, the disciples were simply "wetting their lines," as I call it.

I believe there are two kinds of fishermen. Some fishermen are not satisfied unless the ice chest is full of fish at the end of the day. Anything less is almost considered a failure.

Then there are the fishermen who just fish for pleasure. They are more interested in relaxation than they are catching fish. They are satisfied with just getting out for the day and "wetting their lines."

If they catch a few fish, that's fine, but if they don't, they have still enjoyed the day God created. What may be enjoyable as a pastime is deadly from a spiritual perspective. The church (followers of Jesus) is called to be "fishers of men," yet often we may just be "wetting our lines."

Could it be that some folks do not notice the need for new people to come into their church? Caught fish can be messy, and you have to clean them. It does take some effort to fish like you want to fill your ice chest, your church. The question for us is what kind of "fishers of men" are we?

According to a 2021 Gallup poll, statistically fewer than half of USA adults attend a house of religion regularly. This begs the question, "Are we truly fishing for men, or just wetting our lines?" Why are the nets coming up empty?

Do the members of your church need to get out of their boat, that has been stuck on a spiritual sandbar for too long, in order to wade out into the waters where the fish are schooling? Then you will cast your nets and bring in a great catch that will be nothing short of miraculous!

In John 21:5 we read that Jesus called out to the disciples and asked, "have you caught any fish?" The disciples' response was honest: NO! Is that your answer also? This is the measure of the faithfulness of your church. It is not your inspiring buildings or impressive budgets or your impassioned boastings, but your fishing!



How many souls have you caught? How many disciples of Christ are you making? And your church must be painfully honest about the success or failure of your catching.

I have three grandchildren who are dedicated and passionate fishermen. It is hard to be a successful fisherman when your boat serves more time as a leaf catcher and your fishing for men is only one or two times a year.

Just imagine the possibilities of what God could do for your church if you throw out your nets and you faithfully and prayerfully follow Him!

Are you ready to do some fishing? Set some priority time aside. Get passionate about “fishing for men.” Follow Jesus to the river bank and expect a great catch! “Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19 NKJV).

*Posted in [Footsteps To Follow](#)*



The synod office has moved to its new location. We apologize for any inconveniences as we got set up in the new space. Please take note of the following information.

- **Our telephone number, email, and mailing address remain the same.**
- The address of the new location is 100 Mahoning Street, Milton
- If you call the office, you can reach Brenda Krouse (ext. 405) or Bishop Miller (ext. 406) by dialing their extensions at any time.
- Our current office hours are 9:00am to 4:00pm, Tuesday through Thursday. Brenda will work from home on Mondays and Fridays.

We appreciate your patience as we continue to adjust to our new space and changes in our communication systems.

Y O U N G  
A D U L T  
F E L L O W  
W S H I P

A reminder that **Camp Mount Luther's Young Adult Fellowship** meets via Zoom on the last Wednesday of every month. On September 27, 2023, we will meet at 8:15 p.m. for check-ins and Bible study. If you consider yourself a young adult, you can join us! Questions or want the link? Email [jim@campmountluther.org](mailto:jim@campmountluther.org).

## 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**  
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