



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

NOVEMBER

NEWSLETTER 2023

From the Pastor's Desk:

*"You, LORD, keep my lamp burning; my God turns my darkness into light."
– Psalm 18:28*

I love a lot of things about the fall season. The foliage. The crisp, clear days. High school football. Pumpkin spice. There's a lot to like.

But do you know what I'm not a big fan of? The switch back from Daylight Savings Time. Even though the actual amount of daylight doesn't change significantly the day we turn back the clocks, it is unsettling to notice the sun setting an hour earlier than what we're used to. It is a reminder that, in fact, the days **are** getting shorter. It is always a bit of a bummer to recognize that, for the next several months, darkness will set in by late afternoon.

In the bigger picture of life, shorter days are, for most of us, nothing more than a minor annoyance. But, darkness has a way of entering our lives in ways that are far more impactful. We often see darkness in the world around us, both locally and globally. And sometimes we go through seasons of darkness with the events of our own lives.

As fall turns to winter, and as the days get shorter, may we stay connected to that which shines light into our lives. Friends, family, activities for which we have a passion, and taking the time to intentionally shine light into the lives of others are all wonderful ways of doing this. But may we also stay connected to our source of light in God, through prayer and devotion to God's word and promises. As always, may you Experience the J.O.Y. in the coming month!

Peace,



REMEMBER Sunday, November 6 daylight saving time ends; set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday!

FROM THE OFFICE *Pastor Jeff is out of the office on vacation from November 20-28. TBA is on call for pastoral emergencies.*

- *We will welcome The Rev. David Byerly to the pulpit on Sunday, November 26th.*

The church office will be closed Thursday, Nov. 23rd & Friday, Nov. 24th while staff celebrates the Thanksgiving holiday with family.

Serving in November at the 10:30 am worship service

Altar care – TBA

Ushers – 5th & 19th David Briggs; 12th & 26th Bob Larson

Greeters – 5th Cheryl Newburg & Brad Nason; 12th Deb Smith, 19th Cindy & Terry Belles; 26th Chip & Erin Edmonds

Nov. 5th Daylight Saving Time Ends

10:30 am **Lector** – Wilma Reeder

Communion Assistants – Charles Mahler & Patty Durand

Nov. 12th

10:30 am **Lector** – Sandy Lentz Strother

Communion Assistants – Marilyn Eshleman & Rod Strother

Nov. 19th

10:30 am **Lector** – Brad Nason

Communion Assistants – Mark Bergren & Charles Mahler

Nov. 26th

10:30 am **Lector** – Cheryl Newburg

Communion Assistants – Hanne Schuman & Becky Lewis

WORSHIP 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.

YOUTH GROUP

START UP AT ST. LUKE

The ST. LUKE YOUTH GROUP is up and running! Our mission is to focus on community service projects in the hope that our youth will have a better understanding of our faith.

The first meeting will be on Sunday, November 5 immediately following the 10:30 am worship service. We will meet in the lounge with both youth and parents in grades 9-12. There will be release forms to complete and contact information to share.

Our second meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 19 at 4:30 pm at the home of Doug and Patty Durand (715 Becker Hill Rd., Williamsport)**. At this time, we will discuss and brainstorm future service projects, and get to know one another. All parents and friends are welcome.

In February, our first service project will be on **Saturday, Feb. 17th** at Sojourner Truth Ministry, Williamsport. We will be preparing, serving, and worshipping with the Sojourner Truth community. More details to come!

REMEMBERING CHARLIES PARIS A Memorial Service will be held on **Saturday, November 18 at 11:00am** with visitation at 10:00 am. A light catered lunch in Bell Hall for family & friends, if planning to attend, please RSVP by 11/10/2023 to Greg at either: (508) 365-4741 or gregparis.balgrae@gmail.com

SEW FINE QUILTERS

The next meeting will be **Monday, November 6th** at 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.



2023 POINSETTIA ORDERS

Poinsettias are \$10 each and will be on a per-order basis. They can be placed as a memorial or honorarium using the coupon. Please pay with the coupon and place them in an envelope marked “Poinsettias” and return them via the offering plate or church office by **Monday, November 20th**. Thank you.

Order forms are available at the back of the nave and at the church office.

Phone orders may also be placed, please contact Sarah Young at the church office at 570-3237309.



KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.

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 3rd Tuesday of the month (Sept.- May) or any time at home. The November meeting will be held **Tuesday, Nov. 28th from 9:30 am -12 noon** in the Lounge. All are welcome! No December meeting.



Watch, Wait, Wonder, and Worship: A Midweek Series for Advent

Join us for a contemplative Advent liturgy on Wednesday nights this Advent season! **Beginning Wednesday, December 6th**, at 7 pm. We will meet on Wednesdays (**6th, 13th, 20th**) for a brief prayer service.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2024 Offering Envelopes will be available for pick up in the West Hall at the latest by November 26, 2023. Thank you

If you have any questions or need help, please contact the Business Manager, Melissa Eshleman at businessmanager.stlukeluth@gmail.com or the Church office.



THE FOOD PANTRY

Your help is desperately needed! The shelves are empty! Below is a list of items that the UCLC Food Pantry is in need of. If you would like to join the volunteer team at the Pantry, please contact Tammey at 570-322-1110 for an orientation.

Peanut Butter
Boxed Macaroni and Cheese
Canned Beef Stew
Canned Chicken Noodle Soup
Canned Chicken Breast
Canned Mandarin Oranges
Large (shelf-stable) Fruit Juices

Donation drop-offs are Monday from 9:00-11:00 a.m.

SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS Needed for men, women & children: Shampoo and Conditioner, Shaving Cream, Razors, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Body Wash, Deodorant, Feminine Hygiene Items, and Soap, especially Dove. Paper Towels and Toilet Tissue are also needed. *URGENT NEED: Shampoo for men, women & children.*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

ST. LUKE ANNUAL MEETING of the Congregation, Part One will be held **Sunday, December 10, following the 10:30am worship service.** A copy of the agenda and 2024 budget will be available in the back of the nave for pick up on Sunday, Dec. 3rd.

YEAR-END REMINDER

Please note that for offering donations to be counted towards 2023, they must be received by the Church office by the end of business on **Wednesday, December 27, 2023.** Any questions regarding your giving for 2023, please contact the Business Manager, Melissa Eshleman at businessmanager.stlukeluth@gmail.com.

SERVICE MINISTRY

Because of the generosity of your donations, the Service Ministry was able to fill 59 bags for Lutheran World Relief School Kits. Each school bag had 4 notebooks, 1 ruler, 5 each of #2 pencils and ink pens, 1 pencil sharpener, 1 eraser, and 1 blunt scissor.

Judy Keller provided and made the school bags. On Sept. 30th the bags were assembled and completed by ten volunteers. On Oct. 14th the bags were delivered to Lewisburg.

Thanks to Carl and Janet Yoas, 30 Christmas-at-Sea bags were assembled and delivered to the Synod office in October. Christmas-at-Sea tote bags go to the Seafarers International House located in NYC. Totes are given to the crews of cargo ships.

Each tote has 1 men's hooded sweatshirt, 1 T-shirt, 3 crew socks, 1 knitted/crocheted winter cap/scarf, 1 jar of peanuts, and a Christmas card.

The Service Ministry deeply appreciates your generous support of these projects.
A blessed Thanksgiving to all St. Luke Church Members.

THE PRE-SCHOOL AT ST. LUKE

IN OCTOBER

A spook-tacular evening of fun carving pumpkins together! 🎃 We saw so many creative, spooky, and silly pumpkins tonight!

(see next pg.)





November News

1400 Market St. Williamsport PA 17701

Phone: 570-323-2705

Email: preschoolstluke@gmail.com

Learning All About...



Theme(s):

- We Are Thankful
- Turkeys

Letters:

- Gg, Hh, Ii, and Jj


Number(s):

- 2 and 3

Color:

- Brown

Shape:

- Triangle 

Scholastic Reader:

- Autumn Changes
- We Are Thankful

The calendar below shows the day your child is to bring in **snack** for **29** of his/her friends and be leader for the day. It also includes reminders and any other notable event.

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	1  LUNCH BUNCH	2 Ava	3  Nyla
7 Moren	8  Sophia	9  Aleia	10 Andrew
14  Emily	15 Nocio	16 Erma	17 Eliot H.
21  Arlo (1/28)	22  Feast of Favorites	23  Thanksgiving	24 CLOSED
28  Thomas	29 Nolan Le.	30  Noralyn	1  Cali



Happy Birthday



Lunch Bunch



Storymobile



Book Orders Due



Feast of Favorites

A Note from the Teachers...

PLEASE NOTE DATE CHANGES:



Feast of Favorites

RESCHEDULED TO

Wednesday, Nov. 22

Feast of Favorites (11/22/23)

Each child may invite ONE person to our Feast of Favorites. Please see invitation for more information sent home in your child's Friday Folder (10/27).

LUNCH BUNCH



Wednesday, November 1

Please pack your child a lunch and a drink. Make sure your child's name is on his/her lunchbox/bag along with their drink.

Lunches WILL NOT be refrigerated!

All students will eat lunch at 11:00am and dismissal will be at 1:00pm.

Did you scan your Weis Club Card along with the Weis fundraiser bar code paper that was sent home at the beginning of the school year?
(See attachment)

Easiest Fundraiser ever!



Orders Due Tuesday, November 21

Will be sent home when I receive them from Scholastic.

Last order before Christmas!

Quote of the Month

"Every child has a different learning style and pace. Each child is unique, not only capable of learning but also capable of succeeding."

- Robert John Meehan



Chapel Time

with Pastor Jeff

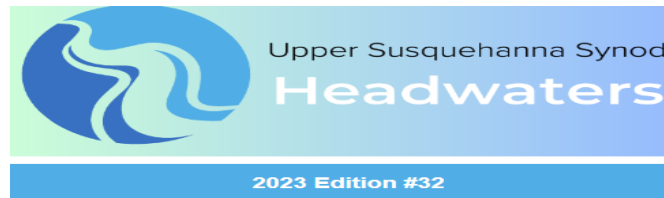
Wednesday, 1

Wednesday, 8

Wednesday, 15

Next Month...

- 1st Tuition Due
- 14th Holiday Program (PM event)
- 15th Winter Celebration
- **Preschool CLOSED**
Dec. 19-Jan. 2



My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?" —Psalm 22:1

Dear church,

As Lutherans, we are accustomed to holding tension between two truths. Thus the ELCA denounces the egregious acts of Hamas, acts that have led to unspeakable loss of life and hope. At the same time the ELCA denounces the indiscriminate retaliation of Israel against the Palestinian people, both Christian and Muslim.

For the past week we have borne witness to the horrors of the escalating crisis between Israel and Hamas. We also watch a growing humanitarian crisis in Gaza as Israel blocks food, water, fuel and medical supplies and as airstrikes continue to cause unbearable civilian casualties ahead of a just-announced ground assault. We see Israelis and families around the world in the agonizing wait for word about the fate of loved ones killed or taken hostage by Hamas. We are in anguish, grieving and praying for all people who are living in trauma, fear and uncertainty.

Among us are Palestinian Lutherans who are fearful for their families, their communities and their homeland. In our communities we have Jewish and Muslim neighbors, who are also facing the horrors of this crisis and its impact on their loved ones.

It is difficult to find words that suffice in the complexity of this moment, and in the web of relationships that bind us together, as church, with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and our interreligious partners. Yet God has called us to be a people who stand with others amid suffering.

We must also call a thing a thing. The power exerted against all Palestinian people — through the occupation, the expansion of settlements and the escalating violence — must be called out as a root cause of what we are witnessing. We are committed to our long-standing accompaniment of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

The God who liberates us calls us to be a liberating witness. May it be so.

In Christ,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Things you can do:

- Find updated resources and statements from the ELCA [Israel-Hamas War - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America \(elca.org\)](https://www.elca.org/Israel-Hamas-War)
- Join our partner Churches for Middle East Peace for prayer every Wednesday from 12:30 to 1 p.m. Eastern time. Register [Pray for Peace - Churches for Middle East Peace \(cmepe.org\)](https://www.cmepe.org)
- Call your lawmakers today through the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at 202-224-3121 and urge them to take action to deescalate the conflict and uphold unrestricted humanitarian aid to Gaza. Find your member of Congress at [Members of the United States Congress - GovTrack.us](https://www.govtrack.us)
- Support Lutheran Disaster Response [elca.org](https://www.elca.org)

Also...

In consultation with partners on the ground, The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) made a very tough but prudent decision to evacuate YAGM personnel, including the 5 Young Adults in Global Mission from the Holy Land and the country coordinators. We are relieved to share that everyone is safe.

The images coming out of the news are heartbreaking and we extend our prayers to the Palestinian and Israeli people who have lost loved ones and are living in fear and uncertainty. We are deeply troubled by the escalating conflict and the impact it has on civilians.

The ELCA has longstanding relationships with many partners in the region, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and Augusta Victoria Hospital, which is operated by the Lutheran World Federation. For the last 30 years, the ELCA has had a presence of mission personnel, including a Young Adults in Global Mission program in Jerusalem and the West Bank. We did not take lightly the decision to evacuate our staff, and at the same time will always put their safety first. We pray for peace and justice.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1).

October 10, 2023

Dear Bishop Azar,

My heart continues to be heavy as we have learned of the escalation of conflict between Hamas and Israel and the growing number of casualties. We mourn all the lives lost and those who live in fear.

I read your [statement](#) last weekend and wish to assure you that you, our siblings in Christ who continue to bear faithful witness to the gospel, enduring years of living under occupation and violence – and now war, are not lost to us in this horrendous situation.

You lifted up how the conflict is connected to a larger context and history, which is important for our awareness. I share your reminder: "As a church, [the ELCJHL continues] to advocate for non-violence; but we also believe it is crucial to understand the circumstances from which violence emerges. ... It is a symptom of a people deeply wounded by extended and systematic violence and oppression. ... As always, we pray for a peaceful resolution that extends human rights to all. We remember that the peace Jesus offers, that which is based in justice and solidarity with the suffering and oppressed, is at the root of true peace."

I encourage the people of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to unite in prayer for the families of innocent civilians whose lives were lost, as well as pray for healing for all the injured, fearful and traumatized.

I pledge our accompaniment and support to you as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and its ministries provide "critical and timely assistance [psychological and otherwise] to those affected by this war."

We also will advocate to U.S. officials your "appeal to the international community to stand with us in these efforts to address the crisis in Gaza and to urge all involved to uphold the principles of international humanitarian law."

We pray:

God, our refuge and strength, you have bound us together in a common life. In all our conflicts, help us to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, to listen for your voice amid competing claims, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, page 76).

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



To our members celebrating a birthday in November

Amanda DeLong	November 01
Catharine "Kay" Ertel	November 06
Christ Scampone	November 06
Jacob Edmonds	November 09
Andrea Clark	November 11
Leah Lewis	November 11
Cheryl Newburg	November 16
Oscar Knade Jr.	November 19
Melissa Eshleman	November 23
Shirley Knade	November 25
Frederick Lewis Sr.	November 26
Nancy Wood	November 26
Scarlett Young	November 29

Happy Anniversary.....

Knaur, Chris & Karen	November 07
Clark, Brett & Andrea	November 08
Smith, Micheal & Allison	November 14
Snyder, Sr., Jack & Deloris	November 22

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



USS ARK

News from the Upper Susquehanna Synod, uss-elca.org
United as Christ's Disciples, we Support one another; and Serve God in the World

Sep 2023



Foundations for the Future—UPDATE

by Barb Collins

We are on the way!

After all the planning and preparation for a new bathhouse and a renovated Maple Hall, our capital campaign is under way. Working with consultants from GSB, we have in place Co-chairs, a Steering Team, and teams working on four areas of focus (Board/Formal Board, Major Gifts, Congregations, and Alumni Staff). With a stretch goal set at 2 million dollars, we are thrilled to share that in these early months of the campaign we reached our first goal which gives the go ahead for the architectural firm to move ahead with construction planning!!!



The Board/Formal Board phase is just about over. The Major Gifts phase is underway, and the Congregation phase is preparing for rolling out the campaign with congregations next year. The final phase with Alumni Staff will serve as the capstone of the campaign.

We are grateful for the many volunteers who are serving on our teams and for the initial support we are seeing. As we move forward with the campaign, we pray for this financial support to continue in strong ways. Then staff and campers can say goodbye to a 60-year-old bathhouse structure and hello to two facilities that are more hospitable and user-friendly.

Advent Holy Hike December 17, 2023 @ 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm Camp Mount Luther, 355 Mt Luther Ln, Mifflinburg, PA. Join us for a meditative hike reflecting on the promises of the coming Messiah and the Christmas story. Christmas refreshments to follow.

USS ARK is a publication of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. We grant permission to congregations to reproduce this newsletter. Send stories or feedback to news@uss-elca.org.

STAFF AT ST. LUKE



Pastor Jeffrey LeCrone, Pastor
Email: info@stlukeweb.com



Sarah M. Young, Church Office Manager
Email: info@stlukeweb.com



Rebecca Ciabattari, Organist/Choir Director
Email: beckyciab@gmail.com



Chris Knaur, Sexton
Email: info@stlukeweb.com



Melissa Eshleman, Business Manager
Email: businessmanager.stlukeluth@gmail.com

ST. LUKE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
1400 Market Street, Williamsport, PA, (570) 323-7309
E-Mail: info@stlukeweb.com
St. Luke Online: www.stlukeweb.com

