

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

> Christ the King November 26, 2023 8:00AM & 10:30AM

On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Come, Ye Thankful People, Come, C.J. Elvey, 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 the holy Trinity, + one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.
- C Amen.
- P Holy One,
- C we confess that we are not awake for you.
 We are not faithful in using your gifts.
 We forget the least of our siblings.
 We do not see your beautiful image in one another.
 We are infected by sin

that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Beloved, we are God's children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through + Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.

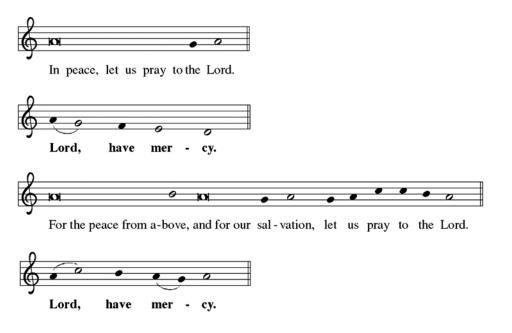
C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN LBW 170 Crown Him with Many Crowns

GREETING

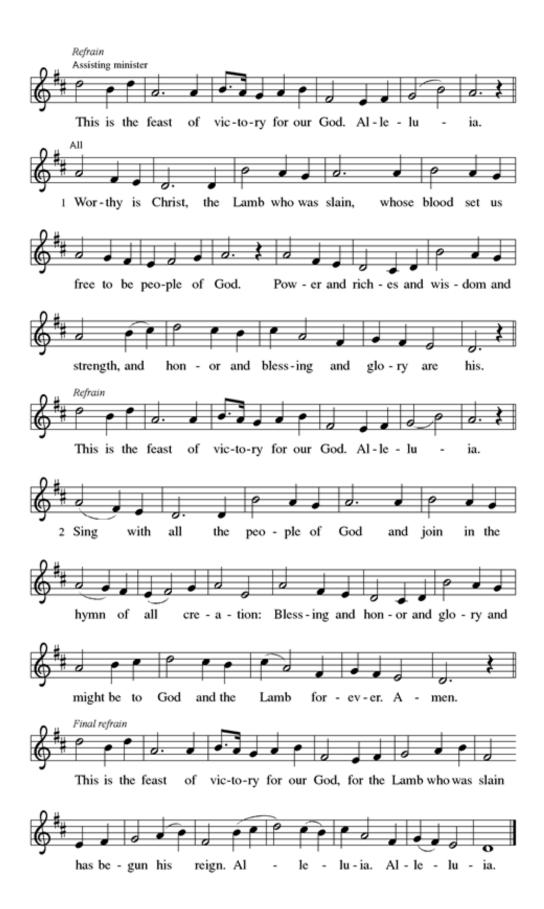
- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And Also with you.

KYRIE ELW Setting Four (Melody see next pg.)





HYMN OF PRAISE *ELW* (*Melody see next pg.*)



PRAYER OF THE DAY (read in unison)

O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

<u>WORD</u>

Sit

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Because Israel's kings proved to be bad shepherds, Ezekiel declares that the LORD will assume the role of shepherd in Israel. The LORD will also set over them a shepherd-messiah, "my servant David," who will feed and care for the people.

¹¹Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. ¹²As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. ¹³I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. ¹⁴I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. ¹⁵I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. ¹⁶I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

²⁰Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. ²¹Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, ²²I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep.

²³I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. ²⁴And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

PSALM: PSALM 95:1-7a

We are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. (Ps. 95:7) ¹Come, let us sing [|] to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.

²Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the | LORD with psalms.

³For you, LORD, [|] are a great God,

and a great ruler a^{-1} bove all gods.

⁴In your hand are the caverns [|] of the earth; the heights of the hills are [|] also yours.

⁵The sea is yours, [|] for you made it,

and your hands have molded | the dry land.

⁶Come, let us worship [|] and bow down,

let us kneel before the | LORD our maker.

⁷^aFor the LORD[|] is our God,

and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep | of God's hand.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:15-23

In this passage, God is praised for revealing ultimate divine power in raising Jesus from the dead. The resurrected, exalted Christ is Lord of both the church and the entire universe, now and in the age to come.

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²²And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Stand ALLELUIA VERSE



GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus compares himself to a king who moves among his subjects to see how he is treated: what is done for the least of those who belong to his family is truly done for him.

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 25th chapter.



[Jesus said to the disciples:]³¹"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³²All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; ³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family you did it to me.' ⁴¹Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil

and his angels; ⁴²for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' ⁴⁴Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' ⁴⁵Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' ⁴⁶And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

The Gospel of the Lord.



sit

SERMON

Silence for reflection may follow.

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY LBW 518 Beautiful Savior

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

After each portion of the prayers:

A Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude:

- A We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and 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.

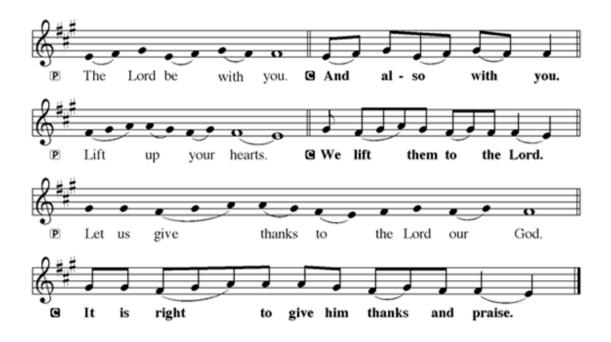
P Peace be with you R Peace be with you.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

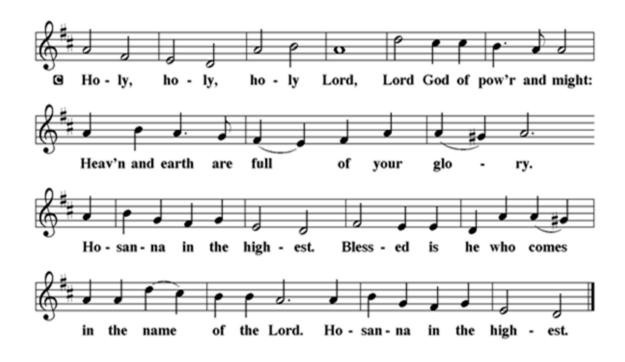
A God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

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

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: surrounded by evil and bordered by death we appeal to you, our Sovereign, our Wisdom, and our Judge.We praise you for Christ, who proclaimed your reign of peace and promised an end to injustice and harm.

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

Remembering, therefore,
the sacrifice of his life and death
and thevictory of his resurrection,
we await with all the saints
his loving redemption of our suffering world.
Send your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine
and on all who share in the body and blood of your Son:
teach us your mercy and justice,
and make allthings new in Christ.
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

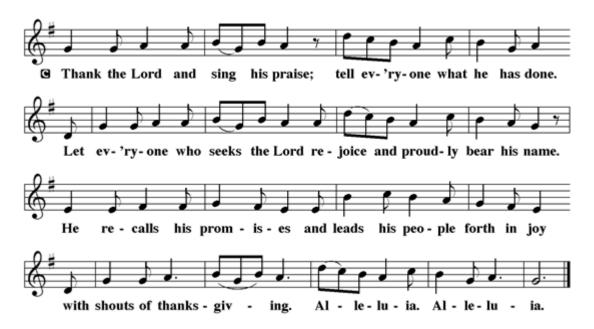


All are invited forward. If you do not normally take communion, please cross your arms and you will be given a blessing. Children who do not take communion will receive a piece of bread with the words "Take and Eat.". Visitors, if you commune in your home congregation, you are welcome to commune here. (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



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Lord Jesus,

in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.

C Amen.

<u>SENDING</u>

BLESSING

P May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, 나 Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN LBW 171 Rejoice, the Lord Is King!

DISMISSAL

- P Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven, J Goss, arr.*

The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God by Linda and Dan Wolfe.

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PRAYER LIST: From our St. Luke Family: Barbara Coates; Jim Labenberg; Sandy Moyer; Karen Knaur (wife of Chris Knaur); and our homebound members.

Family and friends: Kathy Avery, Marion Avery (Aunts of Sandy Lentz Strother); George Schuman; Coby (family friend of Daija Hightower/Deb Smith serving in the Armed Forces of Israel); Chris Krebs (friend of the Mahler family); Kathy Eshleman; 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: Nov. 26th, Christ the King

We welcome The Rev. David Byerly to the pulpit. 8:00 am Service 9:15am -10:00am Handbells; Adult Sunday School 10:30 am In-person Service & Livestream

FROM THE OFFICE While pastor Jeff is out of the office on vacation from November $20^{th} - 28^{th}$, <u>Rev. Carol Johnson</u> is on call for pastoral emergencies. Rev. Johnson may be reached at 570-772-6674 or by email carolandshuman@verizon.net

Calendar Week: Nov. 27th – Dec. 1st

Monday: 27th – Personnel 7:00 pm Tuesday: 28th – Knitters 9:30 am – Noon Wednesday: 29th – No J.O.Y. Discipleship; Exec. Comm. 6:00 pm; Choir 7:00 pm Friday: 1st – Youth Group service event 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Next Sunday: Dec. 3rd, The First Sunday of Advent

8:00 am Service
9:15am -10:00am Handbells; Adult Sunday School
10:30 am In-person Service & Livestream
11:30 am Coffee Hour
5:00 pm Scouts BH

Serving in November at the 10:30 am worship service
Altar care – Nancy McCarty
Ushers – Bob Larson
Greeters – Chip & Erin Edmonds
Nov. 26th
10:30 am Lector – Cheryl Newburg
Communion Assistants – Hanne Schuman & Becky Lewis

Serving in December at the 10:30 am worship service

Altar care – Charles Mahler

Greeters – 3rd Sue Beidler; 10th Rachelle & Jeff Jones; 17th Linda Updegraff; 24th Hanne Schuman; Christmas Eve Nancy McCarty; 31st Deb Smith

Ushers – 3rd Brad Nason; 10th Chip Edmonds & Keith Wood; 17th Chip Edmonds & Brad Nason; 24th Keith Wood; 31st Terry Belles

Dec. 3rd The 1st Sunday of Advent

10:30 am

Lector – Dan Lamade

Communion Assistant – Patty Durand & Becky Lewis

Dec. 10th The Second Sunday of Advent

10:30 am

Lector – Sue Beidler

<u>Communion Assistant</u> – Mark Bergren & Marilyn Eshleman Dec. 17th *The Third Sunday of Advent*

10:30 am

Lector – Melanie Taormina

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Communion Assistant – Dan Lamade & Charles Mahler
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Dec. 24th The Fourth Sunday of Advent

10:30 am

Lector - Cheryl Newburg

Communion Assistant – Sandy and Rod Strother

Dec. 24th 7:30 pm *Christmas Eve Candlelight service*

Lector – Jay Nau

Communion Assistant – Patty Durand & Nancy Wood and <u>Hanne Schuman & Karen Baldys</u>

Dec. 31st Christmas I, Service of Lessons and Carols

Lector – Debra Smith

Readers – Debra Smith 1-3 readings; Wilma Reeder 4-6 readings <u>Communion Assistant</u> Susan Horn & Janice Ogurcak

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 <u>kohlerdede@gmail.com</u> 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: <u>nmac7149@gmail.com</u>; (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 <u>bulletin prayer list</u> 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 or the Church office

CAMP MONT LUTHER Take a Rest During Giving Tuesday On Giving **Tuesday, November 28th,** join with the entire Camp Mount Luther community as we work to raise money to replace more mattresses in Maple Village.

We are pleased to announce that the first <u>\$1,700 raised</u> will be matched by a challenge gift. This means it will be easier to reach our goal of \$7,500 to provide better sleeping for our campers and guests who use Maple Village. Each mattress costs \$110. If you'd like to "purchase" a mattress in someone's honor as an alternative Christmas gift, you can get a "gift card" by emailing <u>cml@campmountluther.org</u>.

To donate, visit <u>https://www.campmountluther.org/donate</u> anytime between now and Tuesday at 11:59 p.m. You can also mail a donation to 355 Mt. Luther Ln., Mifflinburg, PA 17844.

SHAWL MINISTRY Monthly meetings **for November/December will be held together on Tuesday, Nov. 28th** from 9:30 am -12 noon in the Lounge. All are welcome! * No December meeting. **OFFERING ENVELOPES** The 2024 Offering Envelopes will be available for pick up in the West Hall at the latest by November 26, 2023. If you have any questions or need help, please contact the Business Manager, Melissa Eshleman at

businessmanager.stlukeluth@gmail.com or the Church office.



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, <u>December 6th, at 7 pm</u> in the Chapel.

We will meet on Wednesdays (6th, 13th, 20th) for a brief prayer service.

ST. LUKE ANNUAL MEETING of the Congregation, Part One will be held **Sunday, December 10, following the 10:30 am worship service.** A copy of the agenda and 2024 budget is now available in the back of the nave and church office for <u>pick up on Sunday, Dec. 3rd.</u> If you would a mailed copy, please contact Sarah Young at the church office. Thank you.

DECORATING THE NAVE On **Sunday, Dec. 10th following the Annual Meeting**, the Worship and Music Ministry invites all who are able to help decorate the Nave for Christmas. **Pizza and chips will be provided.** Many hands make quick work!

CHRISTMAS DONATIONS ARE NEEDED for filling Christmas bags for our St. Luke shut-ins and friends. A box will be located in the West Hall for your donations.

Suggested items:

Juice boxes, tissues, small notepads, puzzle books, hand lotion, chapstick, hard candies, individual packs of crackers or snack items, homemade cookies and treats.

Anyone interested in helping to pack and helping to deliver the bags is invited to meet in **Bell Hall at 1:00pm on Tuesday, Dec. 12th.** Any questions, please contact Cindy Belles.

COME TO THE MANGER on Saturday, December 16th at 2:00 pm. Bring your family to St. Luke Church (1400 Market St., Williamsport) for a fun, low-pressure, Christmas celebration! We'll be telling the Christmas story in an interactive way that places you and your children in the center of the story. Upon arrival, kids will choose a costume headpiece that will help them to portray a lamb, magi, or angel. Parents will receive a corresponding headpiece (shepherd hat, camel, or star). We'll all move to different locations in the sanctuary, telling the story of the birth of Jesus, singing, and interacting along the way. **Refreshments will be served afterward in the Chapel Lounge.**

Large flyers are available in the West Hall to share with a friend or neighbor!



Christmas Worship Services

Dec. 24th - 8:00 am and 10:30 am: The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Dec. 24th - 7:30 pm Christmas Eve Candle Light Service

Dec. 25th - Christmas Day - No service

Dec. 31st - Christmas I, Service of Lessons and Carols

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 <u>businessmanager.stlukeluth@gmail.com</u>. <u>The</u> **2024 Offering Envelopes will be available for pick up in the West** Hall at the latest by November 26, 2023. Thank you

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.*

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.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

CML ADVENT HOLY HIKE <u>December 17, 2023 at 3:00 pm - 6:00</u> <u>pm Camp Mount Luther</u>, 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.

STAFF AT ST. LUKE



Pastor Jeffrey LeCrone, Pastor Email: <u>pastor@stlukeluth.comcastbiz.org</u>



Sarah M. Young, Church Office Manager Email: <u>info@stlukeweb.com</u>



Rebecca Ciabattari, Music Director Email: <u>beckyciab@gmail.com</u>



Chris Knaur, Sexton Email: <u>info@stlukeweb.com</u>



Melissa Eshleman, Business Manager Email:<u>businessmanager.stlukeluth@gmail.com</u>

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 – <u>info@stlukeweb.com</u> Office Phone - 570-323-7309