# ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH \*\*\* 1400 MARKET ST., WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701 \*\*\*

E-Mail: info@stlukeweb.com St. Luke Online: www.stlukeweb.com



#### From the Pastor's Desk

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven ..."

—Ecclesiastes 3:1

It's a new year, which means it's time for pork and sauerkraut, college bowl games, and of course, resolutions. It seems to me that it's kind of arbitrary that this should be the time of year where we do such things.

January 1 has not always been the day when most people considered the new year to begin. There have been cultures throughout history that considered the New Year to begin at various times, with "New Year's Day" being observed in December, September, or March. One of those cultures is also credited with the origin of the practice of making resolutions at the start of the year. The ancient Babylonians observed the new year in March because it marked the beginning of the planting season. It was during that time that they reaffirmed their loyalty to the king and promised to pay back their debts and return borrowed objects – an early form of the New Year's resolution.

We may observe our new year at a different time than the ancient Babylonians, but it is nonetheless a good time to rededicate ourselves to our king – Jesus Christ, and to recommit to lives that serve both God and neighbor. With that in mind, I'd like to share with you a prayer that is traditional among some Methodists at the beginning of a new year – the Wesleyan Covenant prayer. May this be the prayer of all of us this year as we seek to live into another year, *experiencing the JOY* of Jesus Christ.

"I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,

exalted for thee or brought low for thee.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen."

HAPPY HEW year 2024

FROM THE OFFICE The church office will be closed on Monday, January 1, 2024

# Serving in January at the 10:30 am worship service

Altar care - Cindy Belles

Greeters - 7th Jere Eshleman; 14th Janice & Richard Ogurcak; 21st Nancy & Keith

Wood; **28**<sup>th</sup> Lynn & Dave Shade

Ushers - 7th & 14th Jere Eshleman; 21st & 28th Bill Merkle; Linda Updegraff

Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> Baptism of Our Lord

10:30 am Lector – Charles Mahler

<u>Communion Assistant – Deb Smith & Hanne Schuman</u>

Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> Epiphany 2

10:30 am Lector – Diana Bailey

<u>Communion Assistant – Patty Durand & Marilyn Eshleman</u>

**Jan. 21**<sup>st</sup> Epiphany 3

10:30 am Lector – Ray Schreckengast

Communion Assistant – Mark Bergren & Nancy Wood

Jan. 28th Epiphany 4

10:30 am Lector – Melanie Taormina

<u>Communion Assistant – Kathy & Bob Borch</u>



**INCLEMENT WEATHER CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENT** may be found by checking the church website (stlukeweb.com), and our FACEBOOK page.

**SERVING** If you would like to help serve in our 8:00 am or10:30 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: <a href="mailto:nmac7149@gmail.com">nmac7149@gmail.com</a>; (570) 419-7827).

**COFFEE HOURS 8:00 am** – A sign-up sheet for the early service coffee hour is located in the chapel. There will be four early-service coffee hours in 2023. Please consider volunteering for one of these dates. If you'd like, someone on the fellowship committee would be willing to help. **10:30 am** - A sign-up sheet for the late service coffee hour is located on the bulletin board in the West Hall. These coffee hours are held monthly, please consider volunteering for one of these dates. (Contact the office for a list of the committee members.)

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** The 2024 Offering Envelopes are available for pick up in the West Hall. If you have any questions or need help, please contact the Business Manager, Melissa Eshleman at <a href="mailto:businessmanager.stlukeluth@gmail.com">businessmanager.stlukeluth@gmail.com</a> or the Church office.

# PLEASE NOTE THE UPDATED MEETING DATES

- The St. Luke Fund will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5:00pm
- The Exec. Comm. will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 pm
- SFQ will meet on Monday, Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> at 9:00am 3:00pm
- Shawl Ministry will meet on Tuesday, Jan 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am noon
- No Choir rehearsal on Thursday, Jan. 25<sup>th</sup>



## The Nave Christmas Tree

Is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Tom Croyle by Ruth, Matt, and Megan Croyle. SEW FINE QUILTERS will meet on Monday, Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm in Bell Hall with lunch provided.

**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. We meet next on **Tuesday, Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am -12 noon** (no Dec. meeting) in the Lounge. All are welcome!



The St. Luke Youth Group and Friends

On Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> we had some truly AMAZING VOLUNTEERS who gave their time to come and pack 567 boxes for families for Christmas. We are so appreciative of your time, to help give back to the community. Thank you so much. You are such a Blessing! Merry Christmas

Thank you to Chip and his extended family from St Luke Church. Here are a few pictures of their amazing work!



## SERMON SERIES: A Disciple's Life

Begin the new year with a sermon series on what it means to be a disciple of Jesus! Remember, even if you can't be in worship personally for all four of these weeks, these sermons will always be available on our Facebook page for you to be able to catch the whole series.

- 1/14: Called to Discipleship Who does God call?
- 1/21: Cost of Discipleship What changes when we become a disciple?
- 1/28: *Power of Discipleship* If we're following a powerful God, should we expect to become more powerful?
- 2/4: JOY of Discipleship What does it look like when you put **Jesus** at the center of our lives? How does it impact your relationship with **others?** and what does it do to **you**?

We hope that you'll be able to join us for this exciting series!

CODE BLUE WARMING CENTER 2024 From January 2<sup>nd</sup> to March 22<sup>nd</sup>, First United Methodist Church (604 Market St. Williamsport, PA) opens its doors to offer warm food and shelter to anyone in need. The shelter is open from 9 PM to 7 AM daily. If you are seeking this resource, please arrive at the front doors by the fountain at 9 PM.

**SEAFARERS** It is time to think about the 2024 Seafarers Christmas collection. We ask for your response in January, in hopes you will take advantage of the after Christmas sales to purchase sweat shirts, t-shirts, and socks. There will be a table or box in the Well Hall to place your donations. Items needed: **heavy sweatshirts with or without a hood in sizes large or extra large, T-shirts in sizes medium or large, and 3 pair of heavy white socks.** Thanks for your support and have a blessed 2024!

#### MEN OF ST. LUKE

Please join us for a Men's Breakfast at <u>8:00 am on Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup></u>. All men are invited to join us along with your neighborhood friends, sons, and grandsons. We will have a guest speaker; open discussion on what kind of program we want; and dates for a regular event (bi-monthly or at least quarterly). We are looking for guest speakers, if interested contact Jay Nau. Please, RSVP on the sign-up sheet located in the West Hall or by contacting Jay Nau at (503-686-4550) or the church office.

## ONGOING COLLECTIONS AT ST. LUKE

**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 needs (see next page). 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

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



**DANIEL'S CLOSET** Daniel's Closet needs your help! Now more than ever, warm winter clothing and accessories are needed for all ages, from infant through adult. **Seasonal clothing** (no summer clothing at this time and please NO hangers) for infants, children, and adults, as well as accessories (belts, ties, shoes, boots, scarves, hats, gloves, purses, backpacks/bags, suitcases,

etc.). All clothing must be bagged, no loose clothing, please. A collection box is located in our West Hall or items can be taken directly to Redeemer Lutheran Church at 1101 Washington Blvd., Williamsport.

#### PASTORAL CARE WORKSHOP FOR ALWLS

Deacon MaryLou Byerly will present a "**Pastoral Care Workshop**" on <u>January 27</u>, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 120 S. Main Street, Hughesville. This is open to current ALWL students are well as current ALWLs. More details to follow.

#### Dear Friend:

In mid-October, we gathered with five others in the Evergreen Center to talk about their personality. As we sat around a warm fire on a rainy day, we learned about our personality types and how they intersect with our spirituality. It's one example of how camp fosters intentional community.

Across our world civil discourse seems to be breaking down. Few seem interested in open dialogue for the sake of mutual understanding; most would rather you pick a side than meet in the middle. But at camp, we believe that the better we know ourselves, each other, and God, the more effectively we can communicate and solve problems *together*. That's why we have dedicated ourselves to studying the intersections of personality and spirituality. This past summer, our staff explored the authentic selves God created them to be during staff grow time, learning how self-awareness makes for greater leadership and community building. We also built intentional community among campers by showing them how God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, lives in the perfect community of the Trinity. In the Spring, we are planning more personality retreats that will give individuals and congregations the tools they need to achieve deeper understanding and conflict resolution with others.

All of this is to help us know God, to welcome more people into our community, and to follow Jesus' command to "love one another as I have loved you" (John 13:34).

And you, dear friend, are a key part of Camp Mount Luther's community. We are indebted to your generosity through your financial gifts. As we prepare for the 2024 camp season, we ask you to please consider donating to Camp Mount Luther. Your financial support allows camp to continue cultivating a life-transforming, intergenerational, intentional community. You can give online at <a href="https://www.campmountluther.org/donate/">https://www.campmountluther.org/donate/</a>

Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for your faithfulness. Thank you for being part of our community.

God's Peace,

Chad Hershberger Jim Vitale

Executive Director Associate Director



# **LOOKING AHEAD**



SOS SUNDAY will be held on Sunday, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> with Pastor Mark Brumbach preaching at both services. It's also time to open our hearts and show our love to those less fortunate in our community who are helped by the Shepherd of the Streets. Our economy and budget cuts in health services have increased the financial need for medical services. The Shepherd ministry also provides hygiene items, bedding, and baby needs. Items needed are of regular sizes: Deodorant, Baby Diapers, Wipes, Shampoo, Powder, Oil, Q-tips, Soap, Shaving Cream and Razor, Tissues, Shampoo and Conditioner, Toilet Paper, Women's Hygiene Products, Combs, Blankets, Sheets, Pillowcases, Nail Clippers, Towels, and Wash Cloths. These hygiene items are collected in the West entryway.



# For The Pre-School at St. Luke All You Care to Eat Pancake Breakfast

Saturday, February 3, 2024 More information coming soon!



# ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE February 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

## MID-WEEK LENTEN SUPPER & SERVICE

Wednesdays during Lent (Feb.21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>; March 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>)

Join us at 6:15PM for a simple supper of salad, soup and bread; followed at 7:00PM with a Service in the nave.

\*\*\*We need volunteers to provide food for the Lenten Suppers. \*\*\*
At the end of January look for sign-up sheets in the Well Hall and remember, many hands make little work!

#### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Deb Smith is starting a Women's Bible Study in February. Before determining a date and time, she would like to see who is interested. She has also picked two studies and would like those interested to decide which one will be studied.

Please contact Deb Smith at 570-762-3308 or mdtmom4@ gmail.com.

"I'm looking forward to deepening our faith together." - Deb



# To our members celebrating a birthday in January....

Linda Wolfe	1/2
Audrey Eshleman	1/2
Addison Confer	1/2
Trent Jean	1/2
Karen Scampone	1/4
Janice Ogurcak	1/4
Judy Keller	1/5
Sondra Fisher	1/6
Karen Baldys	1/8
Jeanne Yaggi	1/11
Andrew Borch	1/12
Dwight Rhodes	1/13
Lore Tignor	1/16
Barbara McCullough	1/17
William Markel	1/19
Sarah Young	1/20
Ruth Croyle	1/23
Linda Liptak	1/23
Constance Karnes	1/24
Karen Morrison	1/24
Andy Harris	1/26
Wilma Reeder	1/26
Juliet Harris	1/27
Theoron Hershey	1/29
John Kelsey	1/31

# Happy Anniversary.....

Dave and Lynn Shade 1/22 Hank and Joan Knaus 1/29

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

## STAFF AT ST. LUKE



Pastor Jeffrey LeCrone, Pastor Email: <a href="mailto:info@stlukeweb.com">info@stlukeweb.com</a>



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



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



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



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

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