



ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
1400 MARKET ST., WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701
570-323-7309 * E-Mail: info@stlukeweb.com
St. Luke Online: www.stlukeweb.com

MARCH

2024 NEWSLETTER

From the Pastor's Desk

T.G.I.F.?

Given that Fridays herald the beginning of the weekend for most of us, we generally consider them to be cause for celebration: "Thank Goodness it's Friday!" But the last Friday of this month (March) is a day we tend to observe more than celebrate.

This year, March 29 is the seemingly ironically named Good Friday, and if, of course, the day that we observe the crucifixion of Jesus in our preparation for the celebration of Easter. On that day, Jesus was crucified. The disciples had fled for their lives. Death had seemingly won.

It was Friday ... but Sunday was coming.

Sometimes we go through days, or perhaps even whole seasons, when we feel like it is "Friday" in a similar sense, that darkness is winning, that hope is fleeting.

For example, some of us may get disillusioned with those around us who have disappointed us, perhaps even hurt us.

It may be Friday ... but Sunday's coming.

Sometimes we may get overwhelmed by the news, which provides us with accounts of needless suffering and death caused by war, mass shootings, and human cruelty.

It may be Friday ... but Sunday's coming.

Some of us may be going through a season of grief where the hole in our hearts caused by the loss of a loved one seems as if it will never heal.

It's Friday ... but Sunday's coming.

Why is Good Friday called Good? Well, as best as I can tell, “Good” was an Old English way of saying “holy”. What Jesus did on the cross that day is indeed holy, because it is through the cross that the divine was in solidarity with humanity. In other words, the cross makes it possible for Jesus to be with us in whatever darkness, whatever despair, and whatever death in which we may find ourselves, so that we can experience new life through his resurrection. Hopefully, our days are not all “Fridays”, but when they are, Jesus will be right there with us, always with the promise of Easter life.

The hope that is represented through Jesus’ solidarity with us is what makes Good Friday holy, and indeed, “Good”. As we continue through the season of Lent and into Holy week this month, may the phrase “Thank God it’s Friday” be filled with new meaning.

Peace,



Serving in March at the 10:30 am worship service

Altar care: Nancy McCarty

Greeters: 3rd Terry and Cindy Belles; 10th Sue Beidler; 17th Richard & Janice Ogurcak; 24th Edmonds Family; 31st Strother Family

Ushers: 3rd, 10th & 17th David Briggs; 24th Brad Nason; 31st Jere Eshleman & Brad Nason

March 3rd *Lent 3*

10:30 am Lector – Mary Lou Byerly

Assisting Minister – Deb Smith

Communion Assistant – Becky Lewis

March 10th *Lent 4*

10:30 am Lector – Cheryl Newburg

Assisting Minister – Deb Mark Bergren

Communion Assistant – Hanne Schuman

March 17th *Lent 5*

10:30 am Lector – Brad Nason

Assisting Minister – Deb Smith

Communion Assistant – Charles Mahler

March 24th *Palm Sunday*

10:30 am Lector – Sue Beidler

Assisting Minister – Alan Husband

Communion Assistant – Nancy Wood



March 28th *Mandy Thursday 7pm*

Lector - Jay Nau

Psalm 22 Reader - Nancy McCarty

March 29th *Good Friday 7pm*

Lector - Sandy Strother

Assisting - Minister Deb Smith

March 31st *Easter*

Lector - Dan Lamade

Assisting Minister - Deb Smith

Communion Assistant - Susan Horn & Becky Lewis and Strother Family



OFFERING COUNTERS

3rd Terry Belles & Ray Schreckengast

10th Richelle Jones & Nancy McCarty

17th Sondra Fisher & Janice Ogurcak

24th Marilyn Eshleman & Sue Beidler

31st **Easter Sunday/*Office Closed Monday – Tuesday, April 2nd* - Terry Belles & Ray Schreckengast

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).

GREETERS Anyone interested in serving as a greeter, please contact the church office or Debra Smith at 570-762-3308 or email at: mdtmom4@gmail.com

ST. LUKE ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL is offered at 9:15 AM in the Library and led by Charles Mahler. If you would like more information, please get in touch with the church office or Charles Mahler at Mahler@lycoming.edu



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL for elementary school-aged kids is held during the 10:30 AM worship service. Each Sunday, Cheryl Newburg will lead the kids out of the service at the beginning of the readings and bring them back at the beginning of the choir anthem.

The kids will watch videos, read the Bible, and do some simple story-related activities that follow the lectionary; learning the same stories that are being covered in the service. **We are looking for leaders and volunteers to alternate weeks with Cheryl.** If you would like to volunteer, please contact the church office. (*clearances are needed for this program*)



THE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, II (2023 Annual Report) will be held immediately following the 10:30am service in the Nave next **Sunday, March 3rd, 2024.** The snow date is scheduled for **Sunday, March 10th.** *The Annual Report is available for pickup at the back of the Nave or at the church office.*



FIRST SUNDAY

ST. LUKE YOUTH GROUP meets on the “First Sunday” of each month from 4:00 pm -6:00 pm at Doug and Patty Durand's home. Grades 9-12 are welcome! For more information or directions, please contact Doug at 570-220-3656 or Patty at 570-220-36-58.

“Church Dinner” at Sojourner Truth Ministries on Feb. 17, 2024



SEW FINE QUILTERS will meet on **Monday, March 4th** from **9:00 am – 3:00 pm** in Bell Hall with lunch provided.

PACK & TROOP 12



CHICKEN & WAFFLES DINNER

Saturday, March 9th from 4:30pm – 6:30pm

Eat in or take out

Chicken & Waffles, Mash Potatoes, Corn and Apple Crisp

Adults \$12

Children (age 3-10) \$7



CAMP (CML) SUNDAY is scheduled for next **Sunday, March 10th**. Please join us as we welcome Campaign Coordinator Rev. Barbara Collins, for worship and coffee hour on this day!



MIDWEEK LENTEN SUPPER & SERVICE

Wednesdays during Lent

(Feb. 28th; March 6th, 13th, and 20th)

Please join us at 6:00PM for a simple supper of salad, soup, and bread, followed by a 7:00PM Service in the nave. All are welcome, bring a neighbor! *Volunteers are needed to provide food for the Lenten Suppers. *Please see the sign-up sheets located in the West Hall.*

LENTEN, HOLY WEEK & EASTER WORSHIP

Lenten Midweek Worship & Dinner Wednesdays during Lent 7:00PM
preceded by dinner at 6:00PM

Sunday, March 24: Passion /Palm Sunday 8:00AM & 10:30AM

Thursday, March 28: Maundy Thursday 7:00PM

Friday, March 29: Good Friday 7:00PM

Sunday, March 31: The Resurrection of Our Lord 8:00AM & 10:30AM (Easter
Breakfast in Bell Hall)



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. We meet next on **Tuesday, March 19th from 9:30 am -12 noon** in the Lounge. All are welcome!

DESIGNATE CHOICE DOLLARS TO CML

We are indeed grateful for those who support us through Thrivent Choice Dollars. We use Thrivent Financial charitable funds distributed through this program to provide a place and programs for our campers to be spiritually formed, experience outdoor adventure, create intentional communities, and develop leaders. Last year, we received \$9,340 through this program. We encourage Thrivent members to direct your Choice Dollars to Camp Mount Luther. **Choice Dollars for last year must be directed by March 31, 2024. Visit www.Thrivent.com/choicedollars.** If you have not already registered, you will need to set up a username and password. Search for Camp Mount Luther Corporation.



PERSONALITY RETREAT:

Who are you? Are you living as the person God created you to be? Do you know who that person is? Do you want to get to know that person better? Let's talk about you.

On Saturday, April 13, CML Associate Director and certified MBTI practitioner Rev. Jim Vitale will offer a retreat on the intersection between personality and spirituality. Participants will be invited to take the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) assessment before the retreat and then gather at Camp Mount Luther to learn more about the true selves God has created them to be. The retreat will begin with refreshments at 9:00 a.m. and close with dinner at 5:00 p.m. It will include time for prayer, reflection, rest, and discussion. **It is open to everyone over the age of 18.** The cost of the event is \$89 and includes the price of the MBTI assessment. Registration will open soon, so be on the lookout for a link!

Once you have registered, Jim will send you more information, including an exclusive link to the official MBTI assessment. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to Jim at jim@campmountluther.org.

SIGHT AND SOUND BUS TRIP



\$150 per person includes lunch at Bird-in-Hand Restaurant

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024

RSVP to UCLC by March 1
Phone: 570-322-1110
Email: director@uclc.org

CODE BLUE WARMING CENTER 2024

Now through March 22nd, 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.

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.

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.





REMINDER:

Newsletter deadline - **The 15th of each month 9:00 am**

.....AND:

Bulletin deadline - **Wednesday 9:00 am**

Council Ministry meeting minutes due - **Thursday 9:00 am**
before Mtg. *Council meetings are held on the second Monday of each month.*

If you would like to receive the newsletter (in color!) via email, please contact the church office at 570-323-7309 or by email at info@stlukeweb.com. Thank you!

To our members celebrating a birthday in March



Robert Larson	March 03
Alexandra Seyler	March 04
Lois Smith	March 06
Hailey Beck	March 10
Janet Yoas	March 10
James Martin, Jr.	March 15
Mac Harris	March 16
John McNassor	March 21
Cameron Sims	March 26
Samuel Mahler	March 29
Daniel Lamade	March 31
Daniel Wolfe	March 31

Happy Anniversary.....

Charles & Susan Duchman	March 03
Scott & Alexandra	March 04
Chris & Carol Metzger	March 28



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



Dear Friends,

You are cordially invited to join us for a special concert to support dialysis patients and their families of the Independent Dialysis Clinics. This Dialysis Benefit Concert will also celebrate the life of Richard “Dick” Lakey. For over 28 years, Dick organized, facilitated and provided glorious music at concerts that raised funds to provide direct support to dialysis patients. The concert will be held on **Sunday, April 28, 2024, at 4:00 pm in the sanctuary of St. Luke Lutheran Church. A reception will follow the concert in the fellowship hall.**

This year’s program features a quintet of brass musicians to perform selections from jazz and classical repertoire. As our central highlight, we are excited to welcome professional organist, Karen Lakey Buckwalter, to perform works from Frescobaldi to Bach.

Concert proceeds support the patients of the Susquehanna Valley. Dialysis is a life-sustaining treatment which, despite technological and clinical advances, requires patients to spend four hours a day, three days a week, connected to a machine that cleans their blood and removes excess fluid. The treatment is rigorous for both the patients and their families. The concert proceeds help provide unique individual assistance to the patients: 1) through a cookbook designed to help maintain the special diet that is required; 2) through a nutrition supplement such as “Nepro,” a high calorie, high protein drink which helps meet the increased daily protein and calorie needs of dialysis patients and gift cards to grocery stores; 3) through materials to augment the educational and psychological needs of patients and their families; 4) and through support for transportation and physiological needs.

Donations will be accepted as a free will offering at the concert. If you would like to write a check, please make it out to “Memorial Dialysis Fund.” If you are unable to attend the concert but would like to make a donation in memory of Dick Lakey or to support the dialysis patients, please send your donation to:

Memorial Dialysis Fund
C/O Amy Gallagher
1660 Sycamore Road
Montoursville PA 17754

We hope that you will plan to attend the 29th Dialysis Benefit Concert at 4 pm on Sunday, April 28, 2024. Please accept our sincere appreciation for your support of the concert.

With our very best wishes,

Rebecca Ciabattari, Music Director, St. Luke Lutheran Church,
Along with the Lycoming College music department, and Members of the Dialysis Staff

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

