



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

Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 4, 2024
8:00AM and 10:30AM

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*This Sunday's image of the life the risen Christ shares with us is the image of friendship. We are called to serve others as Jesus came to serve; but for John's gospel, the image of servanthood is too hierarchical, too distant, to capture the essence of life with Christ. Friendship captures the love, the joy, the deep mutuality of the relationship into which Christ invites us. The Greeks believed that true friends are willing to die for each other. This is the mutual love of Christian community commanded by Christ and enabled by the Spirit.*  
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GATHERING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *What a Friend We Have in Jesus,*
Charles C. Converse, Darrell V. Archer, arr.

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

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,
the wellspring of grace,
our Easter and our joy.

C Amen.

P Look, here is water!

C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P Immersed in the promises of baptism,
let us give thanks for what God has done for us.
We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning
your voice thundered over the deep
and water became the essence of life.

Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers.
The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day.
Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea
into freedom's land.
In a desert pool the Ethiopian official
entered your boundless baptismal life.
Look, here is water!

C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

P At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John
and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection
you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love,
freeing us to live as Easter people.
We rejoice with glad hearts,
giving all honor and praise to you,
through the risen Christ, our source of living water,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Look, here is water!

C Here is our water of life! Alleluia!

GATHERING HYMN green LBW 561 *For the Beauty of the Earth*

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY *(read in unison)*

**O God, you have prepared for those who love you joys beyond
understanding. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving
you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed
all we can desire; through Jesus Christ, your Son and our
Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever.**

Amen.

WORD

Sit

FIRST READING: Acts 10:44-48

While Peter shares the good news of Jesus with a Gentile soldier and his family, the Holy Spirit comes upon them. Recognizing that the Spirit works inclusively in the lives of both Jews and Gentiles, Peter commands that these Gentiles also be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷“Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

PSALM: PSALM 98 (10:30 am sung responsively)

Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands. (Ps. 98:4)

¹Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done ¹ marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have ¹ won the victory.

²**O LORD, you have made ¹ known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight ¹ of the nations.**

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the ¹ house of
Israel;

all the ends of the earth have seen the victory ¹ of our God.

⁴**Shout with joy to the LORD, ¹ all you lands;
lift up your voice, re- ¹ joice, and sing.**

⁵Sing to the LORD ¹ with the harp,
with the harp and the ¹ voice of song.

⁶**With trumpets and the sound ¹ of the horn
shout with joy before the ¹ king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and ¹ all that fills it,
the world and those who ¹ dwell therein.

⁸**Let the rivers ¹ clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes
to ¹ judge the earth.**

⁹The LORD will judge the ¹ world with righteousness
and the peo- ¹ ples with equity.

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-6

God's children believe that Jesus is the Messiah and love God by keeping God's commandments. Thus the world is conquered not through military might but through love and faith.

¹Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

⁶This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

Stand

ALLELUIA VERSE

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: John 15:9-17

On the night of his arrest, Jesus delivers a final testimony to his disciples to help them in the days ahead. Here, he repeats the most important of all his commands, that they love one another.

The Holy Gospel according to John the 15th chapter.

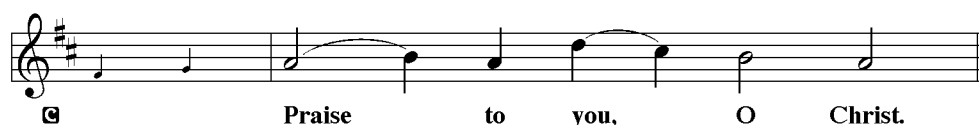
Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ⁹“As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹I have said

these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. ¹⁶You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



Sit

SERMON

Silence for reflection may follow.

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY blue **WOV 701** *What Feast of Love*

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

**the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

A brief silence.

After each portion of the prayers:

A God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living 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.

Sit

ANTHEM *O Walk Together Children*, American Spiritual,

arr. by Jan Szyrocki/Richard Lakey

Stand

OFFERTORY HYMN



C Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Risen One,
you call us to believe and bear fruit.
May the gifts that we offer here
be signs of your abiding love.
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,
through Jesus Christ, our true vine.

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy, living, and loving God,

we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth.

We bless you for bringing Noah and his family through the waters of the flood, for freeing your people Israel from the bonds of slavery, and for sending your Son to be our Redeemer.

We give you thanks for Jesus

who, living among us,

healed the sick,

fed the hungry,

and with a love stronger than death,

gave his life for others.

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

Remembering, therefore,

his life-giving death and glorious resurrection,

we await your promised life for all this dying world.

Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup:

carry us in your arms from death to life,

that we may live as your chosen ones,

clothed in the righteousness of 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



☩ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

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.)

Stand

BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in his grace.

C Amen

CANTICLE



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A Shepherding God,
you have prepared a table before us
and nourished us with your love.
Send us forth from this banquet
to proclaim your goodness
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus,
our redeemer and friend.

C Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P The God of resurrection power,
The Christ of unending joy,
and the Spirit of Easter hope
✠ bless you now and always.

C **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN **blue WOV 721** *Go, My Children, with My Blessing*

DISMISSAL

A Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad.

C **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE *Come and Praise Him, Royal Priesthood*, by Andy Carter,
Tedd Smith, arr.

*The chancel flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of nurses
by Sue and Charles Duchman.*

PRAYER LIST: From our St. Luke Family: Joann Wolfe; Jim Labenberg; Sandy Moyer; and our homebound members.

Family and friends: Ester McLaughlin (mother of Diana Bailey); Gloria Piktel (family friend of Sarah Young, mother of Joe Piktel); George Schuman (surgery on 5/6); The Rev. Mark Brumbach; Coby (family friend of Daija Hightower/Deb Smith serving in the Armed Forces of Israel); Kathy Eshleman; Betsy Rider (friend of Nancy McCarty and Williamsport).

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.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

TODAY: May 5th, The Sixth Sunday of Easter

8:00AM In-person Service

9:15AM Adult Sunday School

10:30AM In-person Service, Children's Sunday School & Livestream

PRE-SCHOOL SUNDAY Please join us in celebrating the Pre-School at St. Luke Graduating Class of 2024. ***Worship will be followed by coffee hour hosted by the Pre-School board. All are welcome!***

THIS CALENDAR WEEK: May 6th – 11th

Monday 6th – SFQ 9:00AM-3:00PM BH with lunch provided; St. Luke Fund 5:00PM

Tuesday 7th - Periscope 9:30AM; PVC 2:00PM Lib.; Service 3:00PM

Wednesday 8th - Worship & Music 7:00PM

Thursday 9th - Outreach 6:00PM; BSA 6:30PM -8:00PM Parking lot/BH; Choir practice 7:00PM; Exect. Comm. 7:00PM;

Friday 10th - Pre-School Muffins w/ Mom (9:00AM-noon event BH)

Saturday 11th - Howard Cowles Funeral Service 11:00AM (viewing at 10AM) lunch to follow in BH

NEXT SUNDAY: May 12th, The Seventh Sunday of Easter & Mother's Day

8:00AM In-person Service

9:15AM Adult Sunday School

10:30AM In-person Service, Children's Sunday School & Livestream

Serving in May at the 10:30 am worship service

Altar Care: Charles Mahler

Greeters: 5th Melissa & Charles Mahler; 12th Peggy & Chuck Yohn; 19th Nancy & Keith Wood; 26th Marjorie Holland & Diane Kohler

Ushers: 5th Diane Gonzalez; 12th & 19th Terry Belles; 26th Jere Eshleman

May 5th *Sixth Sunday of Easter (Pre-School Sunday)*

10:30 am Lector – Becky Lewis

Assisting Minister – Deb Smith

Communion Assistant – Hanne Schuman

May 12th *Seventh Sunday of Easter*

10:30 am Lector – Sue Beidler

Assisting Minister – Allan Husband

Communion Assistant – Patty Durand

May 19th *Pentecost (High School Seniors Recognition)*

10:30 am Lector – Charles Mahler

Assisting Minister – Deb Smith

Communion Assistant – Marilyn Eshleman

May 26th *Holy Trinity*

10:30 am Lector – Sue Beidler

Assisting Minister – Melanie Taormina

Communion Assistant – Janice Ogurcak

Live Stream Assistant

5th Bob McCullough

12th Brad Nason

19th Bob McCullough

26th Charles Mahler

Offering Counters

5th Marilyn Eshleman & Sue Beidler

12th Sondra Fisher & Janice Ogurcak

19th Terry Belles & Ray Schreckengast

26th TBA & Sue Beidler

ANNOUNCEMENTS



SHARE A SMILE TODAY and talk to someone you don't know. Spend a few minutes before or after the service. You'll soon see the difference it will make in our congregational life and to that first-time visitor. It's contagious!

THE RED WELCOME PADS in the pews is our record of your attendance and communion for members and visitors. Please take a moment to complete it. Thank you.

SERVING If you would like to help serve in our 8:00AM or 10:30AM 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

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.

ST. LUKE ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL is offered at 9:15AM in the Library and led by Charles Mahler. **Our last class is scheduled for Sunday, May 19th**. We will resume in September, Happy Summer!

SUNDAY SCHOOL is offered for elementary school-aged kids during the 10:30AM 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. **Our last is Sunday, May 19th**. We will resume in September.

YOUTH GROUP will meet at 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm at Doug and Patty Durand's home. For more information, please contact Doug at 570-220-3656 or Patty at 570-220-3658. Grades 9 -12 are welcome!

SEW FINE QUILTERS will meet on **Monday, May 6th from 9:00AM - 3:00 PM** in Bell Hall with lunch provided at noon.

SENIOR HIGH SUNDAY Please join us for the 2024 High School Seniors Recognition on **Sunday, May 19th** at our 10:30 am worship service. Worship will be followed by a special coffee hour. All are welcome!



CONGRATULATIONS *Oliva Ciabattari, Ross Mahler, and Scarlett Young!*

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, May 21st from 9:30 am -12 noon** in the Lounge. All are welcome!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR * SUMMER WORSHIP times are: 8:00 am and 9:30 am starting **June 2nd**. The late service will be held outdoors to kick off the summer season! (**Extra chairs will be available, but please bring one if you can.**)

ONGOING COLLECTIONS AT ST. LUKE

THE FOOD PANTRY Below is a list of items the UCLC Food Pantry is in urgent need of: **Jelly, Ketchup, Canned Peaches, Canned Mixed Vegetables, Gravy, Chicken & Rice Soup, and Veggie Soup.** *These items are collected in our West entryway. Updated 5/1*

SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS Items needed are of regular sizes: Deodorant, Diapers, Wipes, Shampoo, Powder, Oil, Q-tips, Soap, Shaving Cream and Razor, Tissues, Shampoo and Conditioner, Toilet Paper, Women's Hygiene Products, etc. *These hygiene items are collected in the West entryway.*

COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD

Camp Mount Luther Alumni Work Days: Join us for the first alumni work weekend - May 17th-19th. We invite alumni of all ages to bring their families and join us for a day or the whole weekend. Our goal is to help prepare camp for the summer season, serving and worshipping together in (what once was) our summer home! This weekend will intersect with our traditional work-day on Saturday as well. Stay in a cabin for the weekend or come for the day Saturday, and help make this a new tradition. Together we'll help build the foundation for a strong future at CML! **To register go to:**

<https://forms.gle/sETPBPMct8McVPbo7>

If you would like to come up and clean a cabin or help out on Saturday, the alumni staff organizers invite you to join them on May 18, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There is no charge to be there during the day on Saturday from those hours. Please RSVP if you plan to stay for lunch at <https://campmountluther.campbrainregistration.com/>



**8TH ANNUAL
SUICIDE
PREVENTION
WALK**

**04.20.2024
12-3 PM**

**South Williamsport Park Complex
545 East Central Ave
South Williamsport, PA 17702**

**\$5 Suggested Donation | Basket raffle |
Sponsored by NAMI of North Central PA**

**For more information contact Madison Losell
mlosell@comcast.net or 570-932-0542**

STAFF AT ST. LUKE



Pastor Jeffrey LeCrone, Pastor

Email: pastor@stlukeluth.comcastbiz.org



Sarah M. Young, Church Office Manager

Email: info@stlukeweb.com



Rebecca Ciabattari, Music Director

Email: beckyciab@gmail.com



Chris Knauer, Sexton

Email: info@stlukeweb.com



Melissa Eshleman, Business Manager

Email: businessmanager.stlukeluth@gmail.com

REMINDERS: Office hours – M & T 9-12, 1-3; W, TH, F 9-1

Bulletin 9:00AM – WEDNESDAY 9:00AM

Spectrum deadline – **15th of each month**

Council Pack 9:00AM due – Friday 9:00AM before Mtg.

Office E-mail – info@stlukeweb.com

Office Phone - 570-323-7309

