



ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1400 MARKET ST., WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701  
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St. Luke Online: [www.stlukeweb.com](http://www.stlukeweb.com)



## 2024 NEWSLETTER



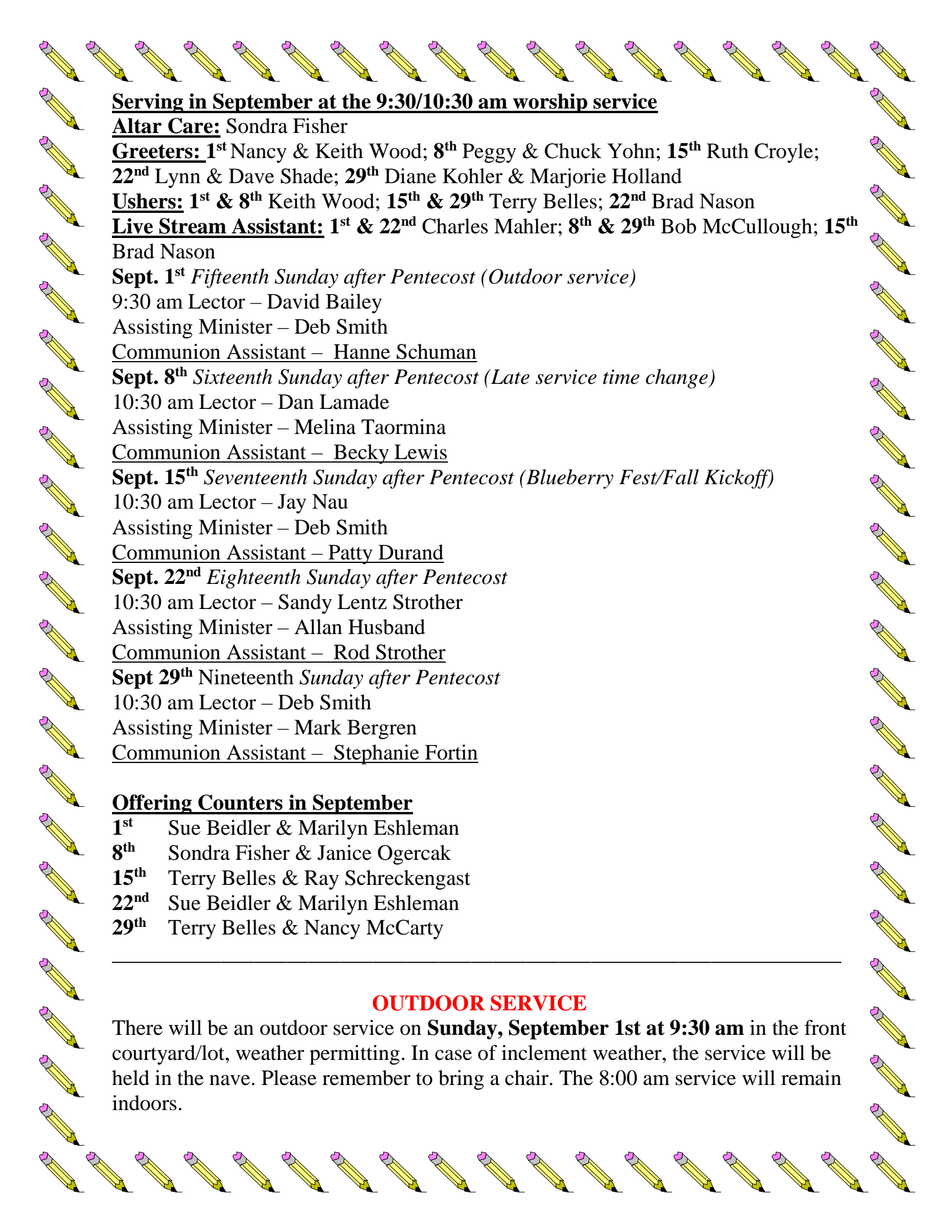
### FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

*"I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living"*  
-Psalm 116:9

I once had a clergy mentor who refused to wear a cross in public. It wasn't because he was ashamed of what he believed. In fact, it was quite the opposite. But he knew that he was never going to be loving and "Christ-like" 100% of the time, and he did not want to take the chance that strangers would observe him in public and, without knowing his professed need for grace, make negative connections between his behavior and Jesus. So, he would not wear a cross, unless he was in church.

Now, that might be a bit of an extreme approach, but I think it's fair to say that none of us is at our "Christian best" at all times. If asked, I imagine that most of us could probably remember a time when we did not display our love of either God or neighbor very well. And I'm even more confident that we have all encountered allegedly "religious" people behaving in ways that belie their professed faith.

During the month of September, our sermons will revolve around the question "What does authentic faith look like?" This series is not intended to provide an exhaustive answer to the question but will rather explore what this month's lectionary passages have to say on the topic. For now, I'll give you a spoiler: authentic faith does not involve perfection, and we need not be perfect in order to consider ourselves Christian. But what *does* it look like? I hope you'll be able to join us for the whole month as we explore how authentic faith in Jesus can be reflected in our lives.



**Serving in September at the 9:30/10:30 am worship service**

**Altar Care:** Sondra Fisher

**Greeters:** 1<sup>st</sup> Nancy & Keith Wood; 8<sup>th</sup> Peggy & Chuck Yohn; 15<sup>th</sup> Ruth Croyle;  
22<sup>nd</sup> Lynn & Dave Shade; 29<sup>th</sup> Diane Kohler & Marjorie Holland

**Ushers:** 1<sup>st</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Keith Wood; 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> Terry Belles; 22<sup>nd</sup> Brad Nason

**Live Stream Assistant:** 1<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> Charles Mahler; 8<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> Bob McCullough; 15<sup>th</sup>  
Brad Nason

**Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Outdoor service)**

9:30 am Lector – David Bailey

Assisting Minister – Deb Smith

Communion Assistant – Hanne Schuman

**Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Late service time change)**

10:30 am Lector – Dan Lamade

Assisting Minister – Melina Taormina

Communion Assistant – Becky Lewis

**Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost (Blueberry Fest/Fall Kickoff)**

10:30 am Lector – Jay Nau

Assisting Minister – Deb Smith

Communion Assistant – Patty Durand

**Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

10:30 am Lector – Sandy Lentz Strother

Assisting Minister – Allan Husband

Communion Assistant – Rod Strother

**Sept 29<sup>th</sup> Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

10:30 am Lector – Deb Smith

Assisting Minister – Mark Bergren

Communion Assistant – Stephanie Fortin

**Offering Counters in September**

1<sup>st</sup> Sue Beidler & Marilyn Eshleman

8<sup>th</sup> Sondra Fisher & Janice Ogercak

15<sup>th</sup> Terry Belles & Ray Schreckengast

22<sup>nd</sup> Sue Beidler & Marilyn Eshleman

29<sup>th</sup> Terry Belles & Nancy McCarty

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**OUTDOOR SERVICE**

There will be an outdoor service on **Sunday, September 1st at 9:30 am** in the front courtyard/lot, weather permitting. In case of inclement weather, the service will be held in the nave. Please remember to bring a chair. The 8:00 am service will remain indoors.

**WORSHIP TIME CHANGE** Starting **September 8th**, the 9:30 am service time will change to 10:30 am. The 8:00 am service time will remain the same.

**COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE** On **Sunday, September 15th**, there will be a combined worship service at 10:30 am, with no 8:00 am service. After the service, there will be fellowship at our Blueberry Fest and Fall Kickoff event from noon to 3 pm.

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**HANDBELL PRACTICES** will resume next **Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>** from **9:15-10:00AM**. (between services).

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### **SERVICE MINISTRY**

We are a small group – always looking for new committee people. The Service Ministry meets the **first Tuesday of the month at 3:00pm in the church lounge**. Have a blessed summer!

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### **SEW FINE QUILTERS**

Come join us for a fun day starting our new year of making quilts for Lutheran World Relief, the Gate House, Shepherd of the Streets, and Project Linus. Please join us on **Monday, September 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 am -3:00 pm in Bell Hall**. Lunch will be provided at noon. Come and go as your time permits. No quilting experience is needed!

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### **ST. LUKE BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL/FALL KICK-OFF**



**Please join us on Sunday, September 15**, following our worship service from Noon - 3:00pm. Enjoy blueberry treats, hot dogs, chips, and drinks; games for children of all ages, and music provided by the Blues-berry Band. A free-will offering will be taken, and the proceeds will benefit the ministries of Sojourner Truth, Williamsport.



## HARVEST HOME SUNDAY



Our St. Luke canvas food bags are available for members and friends to fill with **non-perishable food items**. Please return them filled for Harvest Sunday on September 22, 2024.

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## 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. **The first meeting is on Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 am -12 noon in the Lounge. All are welcome!**

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**PLEASE JOIN US** for the Annual Williamsport Make a Blanket Day for Project Linus hosted by St. Luke Church. The event will take place on **Saturday, September 28th from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm in Bell Hall**. Lunch and snacks will be provided for all volunteers. For more information, please contact Dawn Nau at 503-686-4968 or email [nauhill2@comcast.net](mailto:nauhill2@comcast.net)

Project Linus provided 995 blankets to the Williamsport Area in 2023, and this number continues to grow each year. In addition to hospitals and foster care agencies, Project Linus now provides blankets to local elementary school guidance departments in Lycoming County.

Make A Blanket Day is crucial for two reasons:

1. It helps replenish the inventory for the fall and winter
2. It brings volunteers together, enjoying each other's company.

Alongside making blankets, we will be collecting supplies for our blankets on the 28th such as:

- completed blankets (knitted, crocheted, quilted, or hand-tied fleece) in any size, fabric for quilts
- batting for quilts
- yarn in bright colors
- fleece blanket kits
- at least 1 1/2 yards of fleece fabric
- quilting thread in any color
- gift cards to Hobby Lobby or JoAnn's fabrics
- your time on the 28th to help make blankets, scan blankets for pins, and sort and bag blankets for transport to the Lewisburg Chapter Closet.



**THE JOY OF DISCIPLESHIP** a program designed for members and friends of St. Luke Church to connect with our mission statement (“Experience the JOY: Come and worship, go and serve”) is gearing up for more sessions! There will be an entry-level session (“Strengthen”) in early fall, and a second-level session (“Serve”) for those who have completed it later in the fall. Specific times and dates will be determined based on the availability of those interested. Signup sheets are in West Hall.

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### WEIS MEMBERS

The Pre-School at St. Luke is again partnering with Weis Markets in the annual **Weis 4 School program**. Informational flyers are located in the West Hall. Please register your Weis Rewards card online at [weis4school.com](http://weis4school.com).

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**PRE-SCHOOL MUM SALE** The sale has begun and will continue through **September 17<sup>th</sup>**. Certificates will be available for sale at the church office for \$10.00 each and can be redeemed for one 9-inch mum (choice of color based on availability) at **Tebbs Farms & Greenhouse**, 1620 Four Mile Dr., **from September 25 – Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>**. To make arrangements to purchase a mum coupon(s), please contact Sarah Young at the church office at 570-323-7309. (*Checks payable to: The Pre-School at St. Luke*)

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### SERVING

*(Lectors, Assistant Minister, or Communion Helper)* 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](mailto:kohlerdede@gmail.com) or Pastor Jeff at 570-323-7309.

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### USHERS

Anyone interested in serving as an usher, please contact the office or email or call Nancy McCarty at: [nmac7149@gmail.com](mailto:nmac7149@gmail.com); (570) 419-7827).

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## 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](mailto:mdtmom4@gmail.com)

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## ONGOING COLLECTIONS AT ST. LUKE

**THE FOOD PANTRY** Below is a list of items the UCLC Food Pantry is in need of. *Updated 8/26 - These items are collected in our West entryway.* After office hours' drop-offs: Office foyer entrance.

All Canned Veggies & Fruit  
All Canned Soups  
Juice, coffee, tea  
Ramen Noodles

Potato Flakes, Pasta  
Snacks, crackers  
PB & Jelly

**DANIEL'S CLOSET** is in need of **fall/winter seasonal clothing** (*NO hangers*) for infants, children, and adults, as well as accessories (belts, ties, shoes, purses, backpacks/bags, suitcases, etc.). All clothing must be bagged, no loose clothing, please. A collection box is located in our West Hall.

## 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.*



**WARNING:  
DUE DATES  
ARE CLOSER  
THAN THEY  
APPEAR**

**Bulletin Announcement Deadline - Wednesday at 9:00 am**

*All article information and materials for the bulletin or newsletter must be submitted using WORD or PDF format.*

*Please email to [info@stlukeweb.com](mailto:info@stlukeweb.com).*

**Newsletter Deadline - The 15<sup>th</sup> of each month at 9:00 am**

**Ministry Meeting Minutes for Church Council - Thursday at 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](mailto:info@stlukeweb.com). Thank you.

## CHURCH DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Our membership directory is available for pickup at the back of the nave or the church office. If something in the membership directory is incorrect or to update your information, please contact Sarah Young at 570-323-7309 or email [info@stlukeweb.com](mailto:info@stlukeweb.com). *Thank you.*



### *To our members celebrating a birthday in September ....*

Megan Croyle	September 01
Kayla Scampone	September 04
Isaac Young	September 05
David Byerly	September 06
Joshua Bernocco	September 07
Carole Steiger	September 09
Mike Young	September 09
Schane Confer	September 11
Rick Gonzalez	September 12
Chris Knaur	September 17
Sue Beidler	September 19
Nicholas Looke	September 24
Andrew Reed	September 24
Susan Harvey	September 25
Glenda Merkel	September 25
Mark Bergren	September 26
Ann Hilner	September 26
Erin Edmonds	September 27
Barbara Loudenslager	September 27
Jack Snyder, Sr.	September 27

### *Happy Wedding Anniversary.....*

Karl and Janet Yoas September 21

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



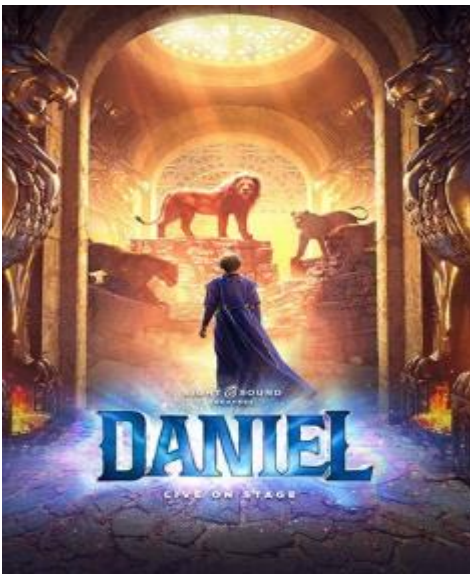
# community

## Bulletin Board

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**Have you ever wondered about theological education?** The ELCA seminaries would like to help you learn more about your seminary options and explore with you where God might be calling you next. Join all seven seminaries of the ELCA on **Sunday, September 15th from 4:00-6:30** for a Joint Virtual Discernment Event. For more: [admissions.callutheran.edu/register/jointdiscernment](https://admissions.callutheran.edu/register/jointdiscernment)

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### ST. MARK'S BUS TRIP

The Bus Trip to see “Daniel” at Sight and Sound Theatre on **Wednesday, September 11, 2024**. The cost of the trip, which includes the show, meal and bus fare is \$153.00/person. We will depart from the lower west end of Beiter’s Parking Lot (Williamsport) at 6 am sharp.

Please contact Cheryl Williams (570) 327-1627 to reserve space and to answer any questions concerning the trip.

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### SAVE THE DATE

Our community’s annual walk to fight hunger, the **CROP Walk**, is scheduled for **Sunday, October 13, 2024**. Registration and Walk will begin at 1 p.m. in front of St. Mark’s Lutheran Church (142 Market Street). Walkers can walk 3, 6, or 9 miles on the River Walk.



46th Annual

# CROP WALK

TO FIGHT HUNGER

**OCT. 13TH | 1 PM** Starts at St. Mark's Lutheran Church



**Walk Benefits:**  
 Church World Service  
 Jersey Shore Care and Share  
 Sonlight House of Muncy  
 United Churches of Lycoming  
 County- Food Pantry

Crophungerwalk.org/williamsportpa  
 For Promotional Materials Contact:  
 Tammy Edkin  
 (570) 322-1110

This year is our 46th Walk, and to date, we have raised over 1 million dollars to help stop hunger! Last year we raised almost \$6,000. We hope we can count on your congregation's participation.

Thank you for doing your part to fight hunger both locally and globally. Of the money we raise, 25% goes to our community and is distributed equally among the Jersey Shore Care and Share, the Sonlight House of Muncy, the United Churches of Lycoming

County's Food Pantry, and the West End Christian Community Center. The other 75% is distributed by Church World Service nationally and internationally to help people who are hungry.

Questions? Contact Tammy L. Edkin (570-322-1110, [director@uclc.org](mailto:director@uclc.org)).

## 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering



### - Week in Review | "Created to Be"

For the first time in six years, thousands of ELCA young people from across the country gathered in one place. The ELCA Youth Gathering was held July 16-20 in New Orleans under the theme "Created to Be." You can watch at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I6tkL7DyXnw>

**STAFF AT ST. LUKE**



**Pastor Jeffrey LeCrone, Pastor**  
Email: [info@stlukeweb.com](mailto:info@stlukeweb.com)



**Sarah M. Young, Church Office Manager**  
Email: [info@stlukeweb.com](mailto:info@stlukeweb.com)



**Rebecca Ciabattari, Organist/Choir Director**  
Email: [beckyciab@gmail.com](mailto:beckyciab@gmail.com)



**Chris Knaur, Sexton**  
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**Melissa Eshleman, Business Manager**  
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