



ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
1400 MARKET ST., WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701
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St. Luke Online: www.stlukeweb.com



2024 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

November, 2024

“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor” - Exodus 20:16

At the time of the writing of this article, election day is just a few weeks away. By the time this newsletter reaches you, November 5 will either be mere days away, or perhaps already in the past. As I consider that day, the eighth commandment (quoted above) comes to mind.

Much has been said and written about honesty (more specifically the lack of it) in this political season. But that is not why I am focused on this particular commandment. In fact, it's not even “honesty” per se that drew my thoughts to this verse. Instead, I find myself reflecting on Martin Luther's explanation of the commandment, and in particular what it says to us not about any candidate or party, but rather our relationships with the people with which we share community.

Luther had a way of viewing the commandments not as rigid laws to be obeyed by the letter, but rather as means of grace by which we receive the love of Christ and in turn offer it to others. As such, Luther's Small Catechism explores not just the letter, but the spirit of the law. In this case, Luther tells us that not only should we “not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations,” but that we should also “Come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light.”

We can't control the honesty of others, especially politicians. But we can control how we talk about and treat those who think (and even vote) differently than us. Come November 6, we will all still have to deal with the people in our families, our church, and our community who voted for the option we most opposed (whichever that might be). What would it look like if everyone in this country came to the defense of, spoke well of, and interpreted everything the people on the opposite side of the aisle did in the best possible light?

Please don't misunderstand. I'm not suggesting that we abandon our convictions, or that we ignore differences of opinions for the sake of harmony. To do so would only be to add fuel to a powder keg, setting ourselves up for destructive confrontations when our fuses run out. Instead, I suggest that we examine how we talk with and about one another. When we speak of those who disagree with us, are we careful not to exaggerate or be too quick to accept rumors and wild theories that attribute the worst to them? So we assume that they hold the opinions they do out of malicious intent? To do so, at least according to Martin Luther, would be to give false testimony.

This election season, may we all obey the eighth commandment and honor the truth, especially the truth that we are all (even our neighbors who vote differently than we do) children of God in need of God's grace.



REMEMBER Sunday, November 3rd daylight saving time ends; set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday!

Serving in November at the 10:30 am worship service

Altar Care: Charles Mahler

Greeters: 3rd Patty and Doug Durand; 10th Linda Updegraff; 17th Deb Smith; 24th Sue Beidler

Ushers: 3rd & 24th David Briggs; 10th Rod Strother; 17th Keith Wood

Live Stream Assistant: 3rd Brad Nason; 10th & 24th Bob McCullough; 17th Charles Mahler



Nov. 3rd All Saints Sunday

9:30 am Lector – Mary Lou Byerly

Assisting Minister – Deb Smith

Communion Assistant – Becky Lewis

Nov. 10th Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 am Lector – Dan Lamade

Assisting Minister – Marilyn Eshleman

Communion Assistant – Karen Baldys

Nov. 17th Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

10:30 am Lector – David Bailey

Assisting Minister – Melanie Taormina

Communion Assistant – Nancy Wood

Nov. 24th Christ the King

10:30 am Lector – Deb Smith

Assisting Minister – Allan Husband

Communion Assistant – Hanne Schuman

Offering Counters in October

3rd Sue Beidler & Marilyn Eshleman

10th Sondra Fisher & Terry Belles

17th Ray Schreckengast & Marilyn Eshleman

24th Terry Belles & Janice Ogurcak

2024-25 TIME & TALENT

Extra *Estimates of Giving Cards* and *Time & Talent Forms* may be found at the back of the nave and the church office. Please feel free to take one, fill it out after the services, and return it via the red collection box (through Dec. 2024).

2024 POINSETTIA ORDERS



Poinsettias are \$10 each and will be on a per-order basis. They can be placed as a memorial or honorarium using the coupon. Please pay with the coupon and place them in an envelope marked “Poinsettias” and return them via the offering plate or church office by the deadline of **Sunday, November 10th**. Thank you.

Order forms are available at the back of the nave and the church office. *Phone orders may also be placed. Please contact Sarah Young at the church office at 570-323-7309. (see next pg. for order form)*



2024 POINSETTIA ORDERS

The deadline to place an order is **Sunday, November 10th**.

Thank you.



PLEASE PRINT

Given in memory of

Or

Given in honor of

From:

\$10 each

I would like:

Color choice: **Red** ____ quantity; **White** ____ quantity; **Pink** ____ quantity

(2nd color choice will be made by the office.)

____ Yes, I will donate to our home-bound members and friends of St. Luke.

Total Order _____ Flowers

Total Amount Paid \$_____





**Lycoming County
Helping Our Warriors**

This Veteran's Day you will have the opportunity to honor those who are currently serving or who have served their country by sponsoring a 5-inch American Flag. **These flags will be placed in the flower beds from November 7th – 17th.** The cost for the sponsorship of each flag is \$5.00. The proceeds will be given to the Lycoming County Helping Our Warriors Charity.

The deadline for sponsoring a flag is November 3rd. Please complete the form and return it with payment to the church office. Please make checks payable to: St. Luke Church and put "Flags for Veterans" in the memo.

PLEASE PRINT

In Honor of:

Name _____

Branch of service _____

Name _____

Branch of service _____

In Memory of:

Name _____

Branch of service _____

Branch of service _____

Sponsored by:



The Adult Sunday School class at St. Luke Lutheran Church meets in the church library at 9:15 AM on Sunday mornings. We will look at the lessons from the ELCA, based on the Year B lectionary. I hope to see you there!

If you want to look at our course materials, all of the Lessons are available here (we are in Lectionary Year B, Sundays after Epiphany):

<https://elca.org/Resources/Bible-Studies>

If you would like to receive weekly lesson emails, please let me know and I will add you to the list. Please contact the church office or Charles Mahler at

Mahler@lycoming.edu .

SERVICE MINISTRY Many thanks to our St. Luke congregation for supporting these projects. We continue to provide people locally and worldwide with needed items. - Service Ministry

- Seventy LWR School Kits were assembled and boxed for delivery to the Lewisburg collection site from October 18th to 21st. The Sew Fine Quilters also participated in this project.
- Our September Harvest Home Sunday was a huge success! More than 50 canvas tote bags were filled with food items. Brad Nason delivered the food to our local food pantry.
- The Seafarer's Christmas tote bags will be completed and delivered to our Synod office on November 5th.

YEAR-END REMINDERS

Please note all donations to be counted for 2024 must be received in the Church office by end of business on Monday, December 30, 2024. For any questions regarding your giving for 2024, please contact the Business Manager at businessmnager.stlukeluth@gmail.com.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

2025 Envelopes will be available for pick up in the West Entrance starting December 1, 2024.

SEW FINE QUILTERS

Please join us on **Monday, November 4th from 9:00AM to 3:00PM in Bell Hall.** Come and go as your time permits. If possible join us for lunch at noon, lunch will be provided. No quilting experience is needed, join the FUN!

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



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, December 4th, at 7 pm.** We will meet on Wednesdays (4th, 11th & 18th) for a brief prayer service.

ST. LUKE ANNUAL MEETING

Congregation, Part One will be held **Sunday, December 8th, following the 10:30am worship service.** A copy of the Agenda and 2025 Budget will be available in the back of the nave for pick up on Sunday, Dec. 1st and 8th.

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 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

ONGOING COLLECTIONS AT ST. LUKE

THE FOOD PANTRY Below is a list of items the UCLC Food Pantry is in need of. *Updated 9/11 - These items are collected in our West entryway.* After office hours' drop-offs: Office foyer entrance.

All Canned Veggies & Fruit
All Canned Soups & Stocks
Juice, coffee, tea
Ramen Noodles (all sizes)
Canned Tuna, Canned Chicken

Potato Flakes, Pasta, Rice
Mac & Cheese (all sizes)
Stuffing, Gravy, Cooking Spices
Kid - Snacks, crackers,
PB & Jelly, Jell-O, Pudding

DANIEL'S CLOSET is in need of **winter 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.*



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.

Newsletter Deadline - The 15th 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. Thank you.



presents
an evening at



November 1, 2024 • 6:00-8:00 p.m.

16140 Route 104, Middleburg, PA 17842

Menu to include heavy appetizers, desserts,
and a complementary glass of wine.

SPACE IS LIMITED • reservations required
contact: 570-922-1587 or cml@campmountluther.org.

Cost is by donation.

All proceeds benefit Camp Mount Luther.

Camp also receives a portion of profits from all bottles of wine
purchased that evening.



Fall Frisbee Fun Day!



Ready to enjoy a fall day outdoors and get some exercise? Everyone is invited to come to Camp Mount Luther on **Sunday, November 3, 2024, at 2:30 p.m.** to play a round of disc golf. Please meet us at the A-Center. There is no need to sign up. Just show up ready to play!

LASAGNA DINNER

Trinity Episcopal Pro-Cathedral, 844 West Fourth Street, Williamsport, will hold a Lasagna Dinner on **Wednesday, November 6, from 4:00-6:30 p.m.** Dinner includes meat lasagna, salad, bread, and homemade dessert. Eat in or takeout. The cost for the dinner is \$14 for adults, \$6 for children (12 & younger), and \$10 for lasagna only. For more information, call 570-322-0126 or email trinitychurchpa@comcast.net.

The Williamsport Civic Chorus/Choir

A Holiday concert will be held on **November 24th at 3:00 pm** at **St. Luke Lutheran Church, Williamsport, PA** in conjunction with **Victorian Christmas in Williamsport**. With Seasonal Music of *Ola Gjeilo and Others*, “*Music for the people – by the people*” has been the motto of the Williamsport Civic Chorus/Choir since 1944; the objectives are still the same: to study and perform choral works that will promote our individual and collective growth as well as that of our audience. For more information, please visit <https://williamsportcivicchorus.org/>

Youth musicians are invited to Lutheran Summer Music

Enrollment for LSM 2025 is open now!

Lutheran Summer Music (LSM) is a faith-based residential music academy for high school students who come together to immerse themselves in musical excellence and build a supportive and fun community. Musical experiences include large ensembles (band, choir, orchestra), chamber music, private lessons, and electives like handbells, jazz, musical theatre, composition, conducting, church music and more. Priority enrollment deadline: December 1. Standard enrollment deadline:

March 1. Learn more at LSMacademy.org.





UNITED CHURCHES *of*
LYCOMING COUNTY

YOU ARE INVITED TO

**UNITED CHURCHES OF
LYCOMING COUNTY'S**

Annual Assembly

"Let the Little Children Come To Me"

REGISTRATION 5:45 PM	NOVEMBER 21	DINNER 6:30 PM
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**ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
1400 Market Street
Williamsport, PA 17701**

TICKETS: \$35 PER PERSON

RSVP

BY NOVEMBER 9TH, 2024

-  570-322-1110
-  director@uclc.org
-  uclc.org

SOUP LUNCHEON

A Victorian Christmas Soup Luncheon will be held at Trinity Episcopal Pro-Cathedral, 844 West Fourth Street, Williamsport, on **Saturday, November 23 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** \$12 includes a choice of soups, plus bread, pie, and a beverage. A Craft Sale and tours of the church will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more information, call 570-322-0126 or email trinitychurchpa@comcast.net.



To our members celebrating a birthday in November

Amanda DeLong	November 01
Jennifer Doane	November 04
Catharine "Kay" Ertel	November 06
Chris Scampone	November 06
Jacob Edmonds	November 09
Andrea Clark	November 11
Leah Lewis	November 11
Cheryl Newburg	November 16
Oscar Knade Jr.	November 19
Melissa Eshleman	November 23
Shirley Knade	November 25
Frederick Lewis Sr.	November 26
Nancy Wood	November 26
Scarlett Young	November 29
Jack Yanosky	November 30

Happy Wedding Anniversary.....

Brett & Andrea Clark	November 08
Micheal & Allison Smith	November 14
Jack & Deloris Snyder, Sr.,	November 22

(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: 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

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