



*St. Luke Lutheran Church  
1400 Market St.  
Williamsport, Pa 17701*

*Service of Lessons and Carols  
December 29, 2024  
10:30 am*

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*On the first Sunday of Christmas we find the boy Samuel and the boy Jesus, both in the temple, both growing in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and humankind. We too have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.*  
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**GATHERING**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** *Adeste Fideles*, by John F. Wade, setting by Jacob B. Weber

*Stand*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
whose steadfast love is everlasting.

**C Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God  
and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P God-with-us,

**C we confess that we have turned away  
those seeking shelter,  
claiming there is no room when we have plenty.  
We have made power and wealth our idols,  
while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.  
We have overlooked the shepherds,**

**expecting good news in prettier packaging.**

**Too often, we have valued violence  
instead of your peace.**

**Turn us from our ways to your ways.**

**Grant us the grace to begin again.**

**Free us from all that keeps us bound,  
and forgive our sin,**

**through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us.**

**C Amen.**

### **DECLARATION OF GOOD NEWS**

**P** Hear the good news and rejoice!

You are God's chosen ones,  
holy and beloved,

✠ forgiven in Christ,  
and freed to respond in joy.

**C Amen.**

### **GATHERING HYMN blue book WOV 643**

*Once in Royal David's City*

### **DIALOG**

**L** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

**C** **those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light  
has shined.**

**L** You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;

**C** **they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.**

**L** For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;

**C** **and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**L** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**L** O Lord God,

**C Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**WORD**

*sit*

**FIRST READING: Genesis 1:1–5, 14–18**

**CAROL: green book LBW 58 *Lo, How a Rose Is Growing (stzs 1,2,4)***

**SECOND READING: Micah 5:2–5a**

**CAROL: green book LBW 41 *O Little Town of Bethlehem***

**THIRD READING: Luke 2:1-7**

**CAROL: green LBW 67 *Away in a Manger***

**FOURTH READING: Luke 2:8-20**

**CAROL: green book LBW 70 *Go Tell It on the Mountain***

**FIFTH READING: Matthew 2:1-11**

**CAROL: blue book WOV 646 *We Three Kings of Orient Are***

**SIXTH READING: John 1:1-14**

**SERMON *Deb Smith***

**CAROL: green LBW 56 *The First Noel***

*Stand*

**NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,**

**of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
    he came down from heaven;  
    by the power of the Holy Spirit  
        he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
    and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
    he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
    in accordance with the Scriptures;  
    he ascended into heaven  
        and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
    and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
    who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
    With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified,  
    He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
    and the life of the world to come. Amen**

## **THE PRAYERS**

A Filled with good news of great joy, let us offer our prayers for the church, the earth, and all people.

*A brief silence.*

*After each portion of the prayers:*

A... God of grace,

**C receive our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*

L We commend these prayers to you, O God, trusting your grace made known to all, through the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**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**

*Stand*

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**L** God of heaven and earth,

**C** from the beginning, you have called forth life,  
in which you take delight.

**The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy.**

**Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty,  
that we may join the chorus of creation  
to tell of your salvation from day to day.**

**Amen.**

## **SENDING**

## **BLESSING**

**A** The God of love,

**Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
lavish you with grace,  
illumine your path,  
and increase your joy,  
today and always.**

**C** Amen.

**RECESSIONAL HYMN LBW 39** *Joy to the World*

## **DISMISSAL**

A Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

C **Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *Joy to the World*, G.F. Handel, Franklin Ritter, arr.

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**PRAYER LIST: From our St. Luke Family:** Bonita “Bonnie” Cockley (surgery recovery); Rod Strother; Marjorie Holland; Hank Knaus; Jim Labenberg; Leah Lewis; Dwight Rhodes and our homebound members.

**Family and friends:** Family and friends mourning the loss of Saramae Radel (Mike & Sarah Young, friend's daughter). **And also:** DJ Brown (friend of Sandy Lentz Strother); Larry Chilson (friend of Jim & Becky Donnell); Colton Bodwell (grandson of Richard & Janice Ogurcak); Marion Avery (Aunt of Sandy Strother); Diane (friend of Richard & Janice Ogurcak); Pam Shuler (friend of Jim & Becky Donnell); Kathy Williams (sister of Lynn Shade); Kathy Eshelman; Andrea Hunt (sister of Hanne Schuman); The Rev. Mark Brumbach; Coby (family friend of Daija Hightower/Deb Smith serving in the Armed Forces of Israel); 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.

***THE POINSETTIAS** are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of:*



~~~~~  
My wife, Janet; Elaine and Dan Erhard

By Ray Schreckengast

Our parents, Harry and Fern Williams; Bill and Dodie Shade

By Dave and Lynn Shade

Audrey and Charles Duchman, Sr.

By Charles and Sue Duchman

Kathi Kelley

By Ed, Meghan, and Matthew Kelley

Marlin and Prudence Wolfe; George and Ruth Homan

By Daniel and Linda Wolfe

His mother, Elvira Taormina; her father Charles R. Harris; her grandparents, Charles A. and Charlotte E. Harris

By Dan, Melanie and Daniel Taormina

Our parents, Ken and Audre Bergren; Rudolph and Marguerite

Lundquist

By Mark and Karen Bergren

Charles Harris

By wife, Carole, and daughters, Dawne, Melanie, and Julie

Woodrow & Helen Zimmerman

By daughter, Carole and granddaughters, Dawne, Melanie and Julie

Harold M. Lewis

By his loving family

David W. Lentz and Fred Schaefer

By Marian Schaefer

Richard & Hannah Strother; Richard McGraw Strother;

David W. Lentz; Wesley Lentz

By Rod and Sandy Lentz Strother & family

Our parents, Bruce & Martina Becketl; Raymond & Louise Metzger

By Chris and Carol Metzger

Larry Moyer

By Sandra Moyer

Husband, Bob, and son, Craig

By Chris Pysher

Tom Holland and parents

By Marge Holland

Bob Matz and Erich Matz

By wife and mother, Jan

Harry Collins

By his wife and family

George and Martha McCarty

By daughter, Nancy McCarty



John Spadoni

By Karen Baldys

Tom Holland

By daughter, Diane Kohler

Gene E. Steiger

By Carole Steiger and Conner

My wife, Karen R. Knaur, and my parents, Perry and Margaret Knaur

By Christian S. Knaur

Our parents, Robert and Thelma Belles, and Howard and Evelyn Schriener

By Terry and Cindy Belles

Our parents

By Janice and Richard Ogurcak

Allen E. Ertel and Taylor J. Ertel

By Kay Ertel

Wonderful husband and father, Thomas B. Croyle

By Ruth, Matt, and Megan Croyle

Michael Croyle and Yvonne Miller

By Ruth, Matt, and Megan Croyle

Arther and Edna Wilkinson; Ben and Mary Jane Croyle

By Ruth, Matt, and Megan Croyle

~~~~~  
***Given to the glory of God and in loving honor of:***

Our grandchildren, Isaac, Brett, Alex, and Boyd

By Terry and Cindy Belles

Marge Holland

By daughter, Diane Kohler

Our grandchildren, Caleb, Oliver, Jeremiah, Chloe, and Elijah Smith

By Tom and Deb Smith

Marian Schaefer and our family

By Rod and Sandy Strother & family

My children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren

By Marian Schaefer

Kaden and Kinley Rodarmel, our grandchildren

By Sue and Charlie Duchman

Our grandchildren, Hannah, Carley, and Quinn

By Becky and Jim Donnell



~~~~~  
***The Nave Christmas Trees***

*Ruth, Matt, and Megan Croyle gave the Nave Christmas tree to the glory of God and in loving memory of their wonderful husband and father, Tom.*

*Charles and Melissa Mahler gave the two Narthex Christmas trees in memory of their parents, June and Daniel Wolfe and Clara and Herbert Mahler.*





## **SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

### **TODAY: Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>, Lessons & Carols (one service)**

*No 8:00AM Worship Service*

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

*Pastor Jeff will be out of the office on vacation until Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>. The Rev. Carol Johnson will be available for emergency care, please call her at 570 -772-6674.*

### **THIS CALENDAR WEEK: 30<sup>th</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup>**

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup>** - No staff meeting

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup>** - No periscope meeting

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>** - New Year's Day; Church office closed

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Choir 7:00PM

### **NEXT SUNDAY: Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>, The Second Sunday of Christmas**

8:00AM In-person Worship Service

9:15AM Hand Bells; Adult Sunday School

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

No Cub Scouts

### **Serving in December at the 10:30 am worship service**

**Altar Care:** Nancy McCarty

**Greeters:** 29<sup>th</sup> Nancy McCarty

**Ushers:** 29<sup>th</sup> Hanne Schuman & Bill Merkel

**Acolyte:** 29<sup>th</sup> Lily Judge

**Live Stream Assistant:** 29<sup>th</sup> Charles Mahler

**Dec. 29<sup>th</sup> Lessons & Carols (one service)**

**10:30 am Lector - Readers:** Sue Duchman, Melanie Taormina, Wilma Reeder, Charles Mahler, Cheryl Newburg

**Assisting Minister** - Allan Husband; No Communion

### **Offering Counters in December**

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

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

**Altar Care:** Jannine Monness

**Greeters:** 5<sup>th</sup> Carole Harris & Melanie Taormina; 12<sup>th</sup> Janice & Richard Ogurcak; 19<sup>th</sup> Ruth Croyle; 26<sup>th</sup> Cindy & Terry Belles

**Ushers:** 5<sup>th</sup> Chip Edmonds; 12<sup>th</sup> Jere Eshleman; 19<sup>th</sup> Nancy Wood; 26<sup>th</sup> Jere Eshleman

**Acolyte:** 5<sup>th</sup> Daniel Taormina; 12<sup>th</sup> Jacob Edmonds; 19<sup>th</sup> Lily Judge; 26<sup>th</sup> Luke Edmonds

**Live Stream Assistant:** 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> Brad Nason; 12<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> Charles Mahler

**Jan 5<sup>th</sup>** *Second Sunday of Christmas*

9:30 am Lector - Cheryl Newburg

Assisting Minister - Allan Husband

Communion Assistant - Becky Lewis

**Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>** *Baptism of Our Lord*

10:30 am Lector - Sandy Lentz- Strother

Assisting Minister - Marilyn Eshleman

Communion Assistant - Rod Strother

**Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>** *Second Sunday after Epiphany*

10:30 am Lector - Raymond Schreckengas

Assisting Minister - Melanie Taormina

Communion Assistant - Nancy Wood

**Jan 26<sup>th</sup>** *Third Sunday after Epiphany*

10:30 am Lector - Jay Nau

Assisting Minister - Deb Smith

Communion Assistant - Hanne Schuman

**Offering Counters in December**

5<sup>th</sup> Sue Beidler & Marilyn Eshleman

12<sup>th</sup> Sondra Fisher & Nancy McCarty

19<sup>th</sup> Ray Schreckengast & Marilyn Eshleman

26<sup>th</sup> Terry Belles & Pat Kelley (\*training)

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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!

**THE ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS** at St. Luke meets in the church library at 9:15 AM on Sunday mornings. I hope to see you there! *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](mailto:Mahler@lycoming.edu)*

**SERVING** (*Lectors, Assistant Minister, or Communion Helper*) If you would like to help serve in our 8:00AM or 9:30AM 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.

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

**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).

**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.

**FROM THE FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY** Please consider volunteering for Coffee Hour! All coffee, tea, paper products, etc. are in the kitchen. Volunteers are asked to provide snacks, such as muffins, donuts, cookies, etc. Please contact a member of the Fellowship Ministry if you would like us to help you set up for Coffee Hour or if you have any questions. Ruth Croyle at 570-433-3873 or Jeanne Yaggi at 570-329-6980.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES** 2025 Envelopes are available for pick up in the back of the nave.

**YEAR-END REMINDERS** Please note all donations to be counted for 2024 must be received in the Church office by the end of business on **Monday, December 30, 2024**. For any questions regarding your giving for 2024, please contact the Business Manager at [businessmnaager.stlukeluth@gmail.com](mailto:businessmnaager.stlukeluth@gmail.com).

**GOOD GIFT GIVING TREE** It is the time of year when we are looking for Christmas presents or wondering what to get that particular person who has everything. Every year at this time, St. Luke supports the ELCA Good Gifts program. Over the last several years, we have provided wells, farms, and schools in developing countries. Last year we provided a computer and internet service for one year to a community in need. This year the Outreach Ministry has decided to support God's Global Barnyard. The Gift total is \$2500. This gift will be used where it is needed most to support farmers and families with the resources they need to thrive. For that hard to buy person on your gift list, please consider donating to our Good Gifts program. **Order sheets will be available by the Christmas tree located in West Hall.** Please make checks payable to St. Luke, please put Good Gifts in the memo line. May we all have a blessed Christmas Season. Thank you.

**SEW FINE QUILTERS** Please join us on **Monday, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> 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!

**LIVESTREAM OPERATORS NEEDED!** The livestream of our 10:30 Sunday service has been a great resource for many of our homebound members, friends of the congregation living far away from Williamsport, and as a low-stakes way of visitors to check out worship at St. Luke. We are currently in need of a few more people to facilitate the broadcast. It is a relatively simple operation; if you know how to point and click on a computer, you can learn how to run the livestream! Training will be provided. Please contact Pastor Jeff if interested.

**CODE BLUE** From January to March, First Church (**604 Market St., Williamsport**) opens its doors to offer warm food and shelter to anyone in need. The shelter is open from 9 PM to 7:30 AM daily. The Code Blue Team is looking for people to serve as overnight hosts for the 2025 season. Being an overnight host includes setting up cots, serving food, and interacting with our guests. For more information on becoming a host, please email John Best at [jmbest2@gmail.com](mailto:jmbest2@gmail.com)

### **ONGOING COLLECTIONS AT ST. LUKE**

**DANIEL'S CLOSET** needs **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: *Updated 12/12* – Kid's Body Wash, Toothbrush/Toothpaste, Deodorant, Diapers, Wipes, Shampoo, Powder, Oil, Q-tips, Soap, Shaving Cream and Razors, Tissues, Shampoo and Conditioner, Toilet Paper, Women's Hygiene Products, etc. *These hygiene items are collected in the West entryway.*

**THE FOOD PANTRY** Below is a list of items the UCLC Food Pantry is in need of. *Updated 12/12 - These items are collected in our West entryway.* After office hours' drop-offs: Office foyer entrance.

**Pancake Mix & Syrup**  
**Jelly, Ketchup, Mayo**  
**Apple Juice, coffee, tea**  
**Tuna Fish, Spam**

**Ramen- Beef/Shrimp**  
**Canned soups & Fruit**  
**Baked Beans**  
**Salt & Pepper**

## STAFF AT ST. LUKE



**Pastor Jeffrey LeCrone, Pastor**  
**Email: [pastor@stlukeluth.comcastbiz.net](mailto:pastor@stlukeluth.comcastbiz.net)**



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



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



**Chris Knaur, Sexton**  
**Email: [info@stlukeweb.com](mailto:info@stlukeweb.com)**



**Melissa Eshleman, Business Manager**  
**Email: [businessmanager.stlukeluth@gmail.com](mailto: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 – **15<sup>th</sup> of each month**  
Council Pack 9:00AM due – Friday 9:00AM before Mtg.  
Office E-mail – [info@stlukeweb.com](mailto:info@stlukeweb.com)  
Office Phone - 570-323-7309