



ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
1400 MARKET ST., WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701



570-323-7309 * E-Mail: info@stlukeweb.com

St. Luke Online: www.stlukeweb.com

2025 NEWSLETTER

From the Pastor's Desk

“[Thomas said] Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” – John 20:25b

Last summer, I visited Europe for the first time in my life. Up to that point, I had read descriptions, seen pictures and videos, and heard accounts of visits from friends and family about the places that I visited last June. But nothing compared to the experience of actually being there in person, seeing the sights, smelling the smells, and hearing the sounds. As with most things, a personal experience of a thing is superior to learning about the thing.

For Jesus' disciple Thomas, the same dynamic was true. He had been told by the others about the resurrection of Jesus, but he wasn't going to believe it until he experienced it for himself. This has led him to gain such a strong reputation as a cynic that the expression “Doubting Thomas” appears in various dictionaries. Look it up if you don't believe me. But Thomas wasn't asking for anything more than what the other disciples had already received. He wanted their experience for his own.

As Christians, none of us will likely get the chance to put our finger “in the mark of

the nails” nor our “hand in his side” as Thomas asked for. But the life of faith in Jesus is meant to be more than just knowledge about him. We can experience the risen Christ in very real ways. Jesus is present in many different ways in our lives. When we experience community in the life of faith, Jesus is present. When we serve others, Jesus is there. When we partake of the bread and wine of communion, or rejoice in the waters of baptism, Jesus is there.

A faith that experiences the true presence of Jesus is dynamic and transformative. And yet, often times we are content to know *about* Jesus without fully experiencing him. During the season of Easter, the sermons will focus on “Encounters of the Risen Christ”. Some of them will focus on Jesus’ actual post-resurrection appearances, while others will see the impact that Jesus’ spiritual presence had on the early church (as told in the Acts of the Apostles). All of them will connect to ways in which we experience Jesus today.

Join us this season of Easter as we “Experience the JOY”!

Jeff

Serving in May at the 10:30 am worship service

Altar care: Sondra Fisher

Greeters: 4th Deb Smith; 11th Lynn and Dave Shade; 18th Ruth Croyle; 25th Sue Beidler

Ushers: 4th Terry Belles; 11th Jere Eshleman; 18th Terry Belles; 25th Jere Eshleman

May 4th *Second Sunday of Easter*

10:30 am Lector – Nancy Wood

Assisting Minister – Charles Mahler

Communion Assistant – Patricia Durand

May 11th *Third Sunday of Easter*

10:30 am Lector – Dan Lamade

Assisting Minister – Marilyn Eshleman

Communion Assistant – Nancy Wood

May 18th *Fourth Sunday of Easter*

10:30 am Lector – Margot Briggs

Assisting Minister – Allan Husband

Communion Assistant – Becky Lewis



May 25th Fifth Sunday of Easter

10:30 am Lector – Ray Schreckengast

Assisting Minister – Mark Bergren

Communion Assistant – Hanne Schuman



Live Stream Assistant

4th Dan Taormina

11th Brad Nason

18th Charles Mahler

25th Daniel Taormina

Offering Counters

4th Marilyn Eshleman & Nancy McCarty

11th Terry Belles & Pat Kelley

18th Janice Ogurcak & Ray Schreckengast

25th Jannine Monness & Sue Beidler

Acolyte

4th Daniel Taormina

11th Mac Harris

18th Lily Judge

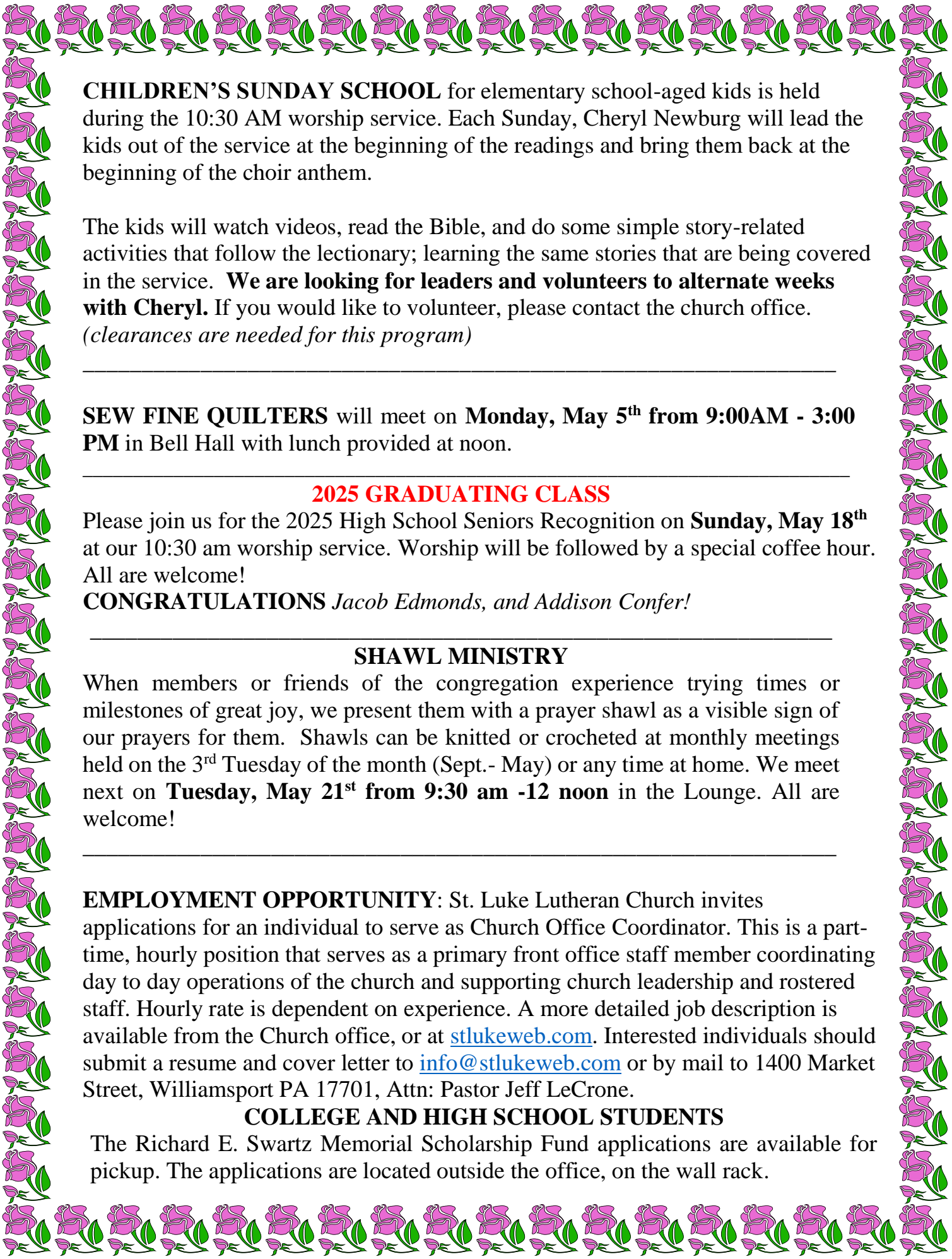
25th Luke Edmonds

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.

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

USHERS Anyone interested in serving as an usher, please contact Nancy McCarty - nmac7149@gmail.com or 570- 419-7827 or the church office

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)*

SEW FINE QUILTERS will meet on **Monday, May 5th from 9:00AM - 3:00 PM** in Bell Hall with lunch provided at noon.

2025 GRADUATING CLASS

Please join us for the 2025 High School Seniors Recognition on **Sunday, May 18th** at our 10:30 am worship service. Worship will be followed by a special coffee hour. All are welcome!

CONGRATULATIONS *Jacob Edmonds, and Addison Confer!*

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 or crocheted 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!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: St. Luke Lutheran Church invites applications for an individual to serve as Church Office Coordinator. This is a part-time, hourly position that serves as a primary front office staff member coordinating day to day operations of the church and supporting church leadership and rostered staff. Hourly rate is dependent on experience. A more detailed job description is available from the Church office, or at stlukeweb.com. Interested individuals should submit a resume and cover letter to info@stlukeweb.com or by mail to 1400 Market Street, Williamsport PA 17701, Attn: Pastor Jeff LeCrone.

COLLEGE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

The Richard E. Swartz Memorial Scholarship Fund applications are available for pickup. The applications are located outside the office, on the wall rack.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

* **SUMMER WORSHIP** times are: 8:00 am and 9:30 am starting **June 1st**.

Our first outdoor service will be at the 9:30 AM service on June 15th (Extra chairs will be available, but please bring one if you can.)

ONGOING COLLECTIONS AT ST. LUKE

DANIEL'S CLOSET

Daniel's Closet needs your help! Summer clothing and accessories are needed for all ages, from infant through adult. **Seasonal clothing (*no winter clothing at this time and please 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 or items can be taken directly to Redeemer Lutheran Church at 1101 Washington Blvd., Williamsport.

SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS

Items most needed at this time are baby diapers, baby wipes, baby shampoo, baby wash, baby lotion. Size 7 diapers, XXL adult pull-ups, facial tissue, bath towels, women's deodorant, conditioner, men's and women's razors. **These hygiene items are collected in the West entryway.**

THE FOOD PANTRY

Below is a list of items that the UCLC Food Pantry needs. An asterisk indicates the most urgent need. If you would like to join the volunteer team at the Pantry, please contact Tammey at 570-322-1110 for an orientation.

1 lb. Canned	Canned Tuna*	Salt & Pepper
Hams	Cereal	Sets
Spam like	Pop Tarts	Ketchup
canned meat*	Peanut Butter	BBQ Sauce
Sugar*	and Jelly	Relish
Ground	Tuna Fish	Mayonnaise
Coffee*	Pork & Beans	

Food Pantry Donation: drop-offs are Monday from 9:00-11:00 a.m.



OLD IMMANUEL

Old Immanuel Lutheran Church, the "mother" church of Lutheranism in Lycoming County, will be holding its annual **Memorial Service on Sunday, June 8, 2025, at 2:30 pm.** The **Rev. Carol Johnson**, of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Williamsport, will be leading the service. The DAR will be present also to formally dedicate plaques marking the final resting place of some of the patriots buried in the cemetery.

Old Immanuel is considered to be the mother church of Lutheranism in Lycoming County. Founded in 1791, it lived until its doors shut permanently in 1920. The first structure built on the property was of log; the second and third (the current)



structures were of brick. The current building was dedicated in 1869, and contains two cornerstones, one in German dated 1832, and one in English dated 1869. At least 9 Revolutionary Soldiers and 5 Civil War Soldiers are buried in the historic cemetery. The church was built on land donated by Henry and Barbara Shoemaker, of "Shoemaker Mills" at the Routes 442/405 intersection.

This historic church is located at 2366 Lime Bluff Road, outside of Muncy. The current structure was dedicated in 1869, and has neither running water or electricity.

Old Immanuel closed its doors for regular services in 1920, after giving rise to 19 other Lutheran congregations. Some have since closed their doors, but churches that continue include Trinity and Mount Zion, Hughesville; St. Andrew, Muncy; St.



James, Muncy; Messiah, Clarkstown; St. John's, Gordner's Grove; St. John's (Brick), Montgomery; and Bethany, Montoursville.

After the service is concluded, light refreshments will be served on the church lawn. Please plan on joining us for an afternoon rich in history and fellowship!

COMMUNITY VBS St. Luke Church will be participating with the United Churches of Lycoming County Vacation Bible School "ROAD TRIP: On the Go with God". Mark your calendars for Sunday, July 13th- Thursday, July 17th. Camp is designed for ages 4-12 and special abilities adults. If you or your ministry would like to volunteer, please contact Saint John's -Newberry UMC at seretary@stjnnumc.com

BUS TRIP TO SIGHT & SOUND THEATRE Redeemer Lutheran Church will be hosting a bus trip to Sight & Sound Theatre for a production of **Noah** on Tuesday, June 17. We will be leaving from the parking lot at Messiah Lutheran Church in South Williamsport at 7:00 a.m. Please park at the back of the lot. The cost of \$150 per person includes the show ticket and a seat on the bus. On our way home, we will stop at Kitchen Kettle Village for a meal and shopping on your own. To reserve your seats or for more information, please call Sharon Ault at 570-337-7095. Once you have confirmed your reservations with Sharon, you may mail your payment. Make checks payable to Sharon Ault. Mail payment to: Sharon Ault, c/o Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1101 Washington Blvd, Williamsport, Pa. 17701 Along with your payment, please include names of each individual attending and a cell phone number for the seat(s) you are reserving.



No matter where you are in your grief journey, join us for this FREE workshop to help you navigate through your loss. We will begin with an informative session that includes practical tips and ideas, followed by a leisurely walk on the Lycoming County Bike Path beginning and ending at Knight-Confer Funeral Home.

There will be 6 sessions held on Wednesdays

May 7, 14, 21, June 4, 11, 18

10-11:30am **OR** 5-6:30pm

****Attending all six sessions is encouraged**

Please RSVP by **May 5** by calling Knight-Confer Funeral Home at 570-323-7717

Just in time for
MOTHER'S DAY CRAFT FAIR
INDOOR EVENT
Saturday, May 3, 2025 - 9 am to 3 pm
at South Williamsport United Methodist Church
409 Main St, South Williamsport, PA 17702
COST: Donation of \$20 per spot (approx 8' x 8'). Limited amount of tables available 6', 8' or 5' round (first come, first served basis.) 2 chairs provided per table.
Note: You may bring your own table/chairs if you wish.
ELECTRIC available at an additional fee of \$5 per spot (first come, first served basis).
SETUP: Friday May 2 - 5 pm to 7 pm or Saturday, May 3 - 6:30 am to 8:30 am.
Delicious Food, Krispy Kreme Donuts, etc for sale Saturday, May 3 - 8:30 am - 2:30 pm
To register call/text Scott 570 220 2618 or email swumc@comcast.net
Benefits SW Christians Helping Honduras and South Church Nurture Ministries



**Church Women United in Lycoming County
May Friendship Day**

You are cordially invited to our Annual May Friendship Day Luncheon and Celebration.

Date: Friday May 2, 2025
Place: St. John's-Newberry United Methodist Church
 2101 Newberry Street
 Williamsport, PA 17701
Time: Luncheon 12:00 noon/Celebration 1:00 p.m.
Cost: \$20.00 per person



The theme for the 2025 May Friendship Day Celebration is **"Friends Love At All Times."** Our anchor scripture is **Colossians 3:12**, *"Since God chose you to be the holy people he loves, you must clothe yourselves with tenderhearted mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience."* Our ingathering will be a collection for the United Churches of Lycoming County's Food Pantry. (See below for items that are needed.) The Celebration will feature the Fellowship of the Least Coin and the May Friendship Day offering will support our local Church Women United. Our program is **Someone To Tell It To**. Someone To Tell It To is a not-for-profit organization that envisions a world in which everyone matters, everyone is heard, and loneliness is diminished. Providing human connection through compassionate listening is the guiding mission behind the organization. Lunch will be catered by The Food Guy. The meal will include pulled pork or chicken salad sandwiches, tossed salad, fresh fruit, and ice cream cake. Please complete the reservation form below and return to Mrs. Phyllis Girven, 1215 Shiffler Avenue, Williamsport, Pa 17701, along with your check made out to Church Women United, by **April 24, 2025**.

Items needed for the **Food Pantry**: Canned ham, Spam, canned/pouched tuna, all condiments, pancake syrup, and 64 oz. shelf-stable juice.

There is plenty of parking in the church parking lot. The church is also handicapped accessible.

 Name: _____
 Additional Names of People Attending: _____

 Address: _____
 Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____
 Church: _____
 Amount of Check Enclosed: _____

REMINDER:

Newsletter deadline - **The 15th of each month at 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 May

David Briggs	May 02
Pamela Shenberger	May 02
Allison Smith	May 02
Elizabeth Harris	May 06
Richard Tignor	May 06
Jack Fortin	May 08
James Labenberg	May 09
Gerda LeCrone	May 10
Sandy Lentz Strother	May 11
Alice Good	May 13
Keith Wood	May 19
Carol Metzger	May 20
Jocelyn Jean	May 25
Debra Smith	May 25
John Good III	May 30
Gavin Briggs	May 31
Sally Labenberg	May 31



Happy Anniversary.....

Keith & Nancy Wood	May 11
Jay & Dawn Nau	May 12
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Larson	May 15
Eric & Stephanie Fortin	May 16
Bill & Linda Liptak	May 20
Tom & Karen Morrison	May 28
William & Jeanne Yaggi	May 29



(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

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

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