



ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

1400 MARKET ST., WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701

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



2025 NEWSLETTER (SUMMER EDITION)

From the Pastor's Desk

*"I will listen to what God the LORD says;
he promises peace to his people, his faithful servants—
but let them not turn to folly."*

Psalm 85:8

The following was posted on Facebook last month, but I repeat it here because 1) I think it is important and 2) I'm trying to reach everyone in the congregation with this message, even those not on social media.

Last month, over 20 members of St. Luke Church met for a "discernment session". In other words, we discussed what it means to listen to God, specifically to what God is saying to St. Luke Church, and how we, as a congregation, can listen better. We talked about the ways God speaks to us, and we found that many of us hear God through the Bible, other people, circumstances (and reflection on past circumstances), nature (including animals and pets!), and when we resolve to have faith in God in difficult situations. In short, God speaks in many ways, and we probably just scratched the surface in our conversation!

I was so inspired that I was hoping to preach a sermon on that conversation to share with the entire congregation. But I hadn't yet checked what the scriptures were for that morning, and I didn't know whether I would be shoeorning such a topic into a set of scripture passages that just didn't fit.

As those of you who were there that morning now know, the scheduled lectionary Gospel passage was the story of Martha and Mary, in which Jesus affirms Mary for sitting at his feet ... and listening to his teaching! I don't think I could have chosen a better passage. It was tailor-made for that conversation.

God is speaking all the time, we only need to take the time to listen. To that end, I want to invite everyone to do what I invited those who attended our first discernment session to do.

If you are willing to do so, take a week (or longer) and try this prayer discipline. Each day take a moment in the morning for prayer and ask God a question. During our discernment session, we discussed possible questions we might ask of God for our church:

- How can we hear your Word correctly?
- How do we be faithful in the midst of so many different (and sometimes opposing) messages, all of which claim to be Christian?
- Who are the people we are called to help?
- Who are the people/injustices we are called to challenge?
- Where are you at work already in our church or community?
- What are the things that make us “come alive” in our relationship to you?

If one or more of these questions especially speak to you, ask that question. Or ask another not listed here.

Then listen.

In the evening, before going to bed, take another prayer moment and reflect on your day. In your prayer ask if God was trying to answer your question through the events of the day, conversations you had, books or scripture you read, or in any other way. Try that practice for a week or longer and see what happens. Write down anything you think might be from God. In the coming weeks, we'll revisit the topic with more discernment sessions.

But for now, let's just listen.

Peace,



DISCERNMENT SESSIONS The Second Session will be on **Aug 13 at 7:00 p.m.** at the home of Brad Nason & Cheryl Newburg. It'll be an informal conversation about listening to the Spirit, as we continue to focus on listening to what God has to say about our congregation, our community, and where God is leading us. The address is in the Church Directory or you may call the church office at 570-323-7309. Please RSVP.



MUSIC DIRECTOR,

Though our choirs are on summer break, sounds continue to be all around us whether outdoors, listening to a concert within our community or resounding weekly inside our church walls. Yet very soon, we will be back to hosting regular opportunities for musical participation at St. Luke's, some of which will be as follows:

- **Thursday, August 28, 6:00pm, chancel choir and bell choir meet & greet in the chapel.**
- **7:00 choir practice.**

At 6:00, our choir/bell members and anyone who might be interested in joining will enjoy some light refreshments & fellowship. 7:00 that evening choir rehearses for the first time this fall.

- **Choir practices will continue being held Thursdays at 7:00pm.**
- **Bell choir practices will begin Sunday, September 7 between services 9:15-10:00am**

In addition, be on the lookout for some shiny bells and some brand new ones as well! We have been busy taking care of our bell consort this summer and are excited to showcase them soon.

- **Sunday, September 28,**
Blueberries will take the cake, but the "Blues" will take the stage! We will be playing some jazz tunes and other jam for our festival that afternoon. Details forthcoming!
- **Sunday, November 16, 4:00pm**
Will be our annual Dialysis Benefit concert featuring organist, David Jackson from upstate NY.

I'm looking forward to developing our musical paths together at St. Luke's!

Becky Ciabattari

SERVING IN AUGUST WORSHIP SERVICE

8:00AM

Lector/Administrant: 3rd Ed Kelley; 10th Ed Kelley; 17th Nancy McCarty; 24th Jeanne Yaggi; 31st Nancy McCarty

9:30AM

Lector: 3rd Kim Fremberg; 10th Jim Donnell; 17th Dan Lamade; 24th Wilma Reeder; 31st Deb Smith

Acolyte: 3rd Mac Harris; 10th Lily Judge; 17th Wyatt Judge; 24th Lily Judge; 31st OUTDOOR SERVICE, NO ACOLYTE (weather permitting)

Altar Care: Deb Smith - August

Assisting Minister: 3rd Allan Husband; 10th Marilyn Eshleman; 17th Deb Smith; 24th Mark Bergren; 31st Allan Husband

Communion Assistant: 3rd Janice Ogurcak; 10th Sandy Lentz Strother; 17th Becky Lewis; 24th Charles Mahler; 31st Karen Baldys

Greeters: 3rd Marge Holland & Diane Kohler; 10th Lynn & Dave Shade; 17th Sue Beidler; 24th Ruth Croyle; 31st Deb & Tom Smith

Ushers: 3rd Charlie & Susan Duchman; 10th Allan Husband; 17th David Briggs; 24th David Briggs; 31st Charles Mahler

Live Stream Assistant: 3rd Brad Nason; 10th Daniel Taormina; 17th Daniel Taormina; 24th Brad Nason; 31st Charles Mahler

Offering Counters: 3rd Nancy McCarty & Marilyn Eshleman; 10th Terry Belles & Pat Kelley; 17th Ray Schreckengast & Janice Ogurcak; 24th Sue Beidler & Jannine Monness; 31st Terry Belles & Jannine Monness

SERVING 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 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 at 570-323-7309.

USHERS Anyone interested in serving as an usher, please contact Nancy McCarty - nmac7149@gmail.com or 570- 419-7827 or the church office at 570-323-7309.

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATE is now underway. Please notify the church office if you have any change in contact information such as ***ADDRESS, HOME PHONE, MOBILE PHONE, OR EMAIL CHANGES.*** We would like to keep the directory up to date and as accurate as possible. Thank you for your assistance. **DEADLINE IS AUGUST 31, 2025** Call church office at 570-323-7309 or email: info@stlukeweb.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 at 570-323-7309.

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 Ruth Croyle at 570-433-3873 or Jeanne Yaggi at 570-329-6980 if you would like us to help you set up for Coffee Hour or if you have any questions.

THE PRE-SCHOOL AT ST. LUKE has an opening left for a 4 or 5-year-old. If you know of anyone that might be interested in sending their child to our Pre-School please contact Cindi Stroble at 570-323-2705 or the church office at 570-323-7309.

CHURCH COUNCIL meets next on **August 11th at 7:00 pm** in Bell Hall.

ST. LUKE BLOOD DRIVE

The Annual Blood Drive is set for **Friday, August 15th from Noon – 5:00 PM** in Bell Hall.



THE FOOD PANTRY Below is a list of items the UCLC Food Pantry is in need of. *Updated 7/16 - These items are collected in our West entryway*

DANIEL'S CLOSET

Needed are fall/winter seasonal clothing (*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**†



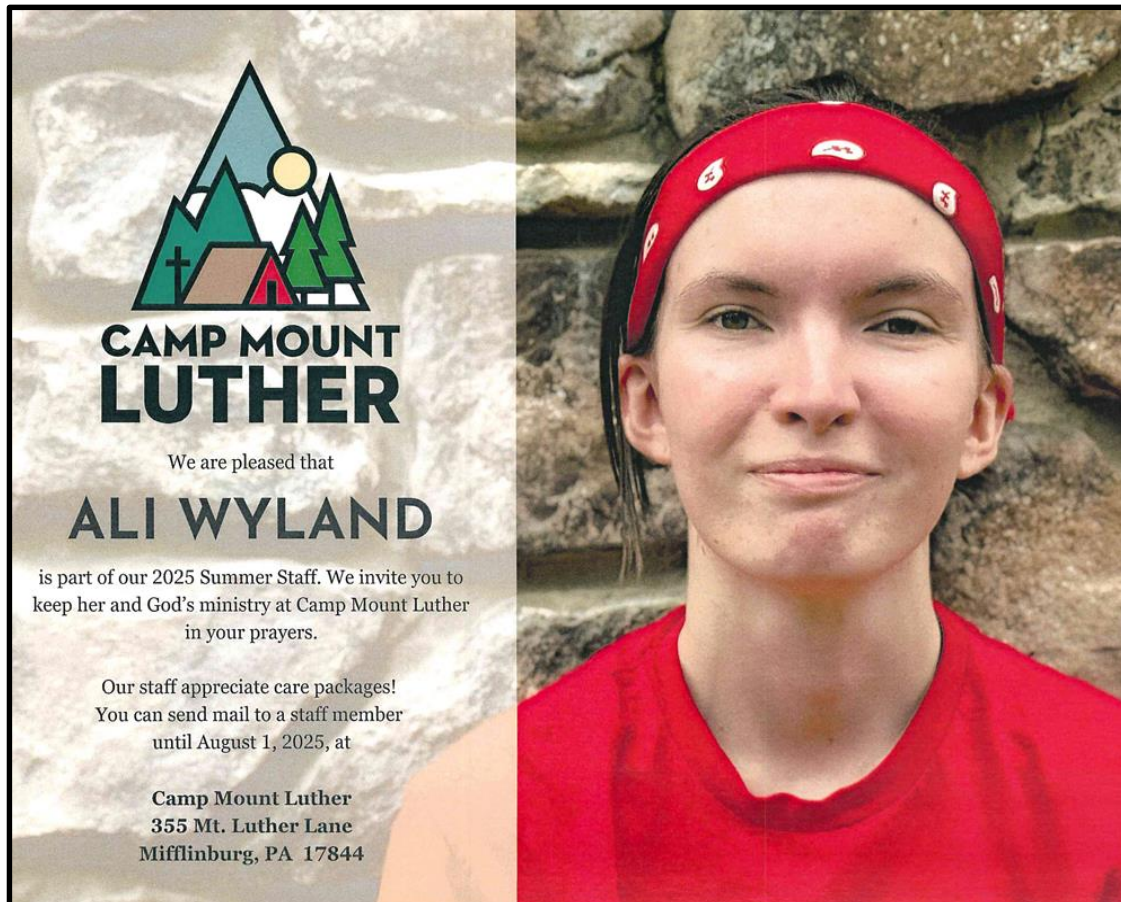
CML STAFF SPOTLIGHT

ALI WYLAND IS BACK! ALI'S FAVORITE PLACE: TURKEY FEEDER

During our camp season on Good SOIL, to highlight our seasonal staff, we're taking a trip around camp to all the favorite places they hold dear. For many, Camp Mount Luther is a haven, a place of peace, good memories, and fun times. Usually there's one (or maybe a few!) place where a person feels particularly drawn: their favorite place to go. In those special spots, camp becomes embodied, and we grow deep roots into the very landscape of Camp Mount Luther. It's not just a building. Or a campsite. Or a worship space. It's a memory, a feeling, a place of community.

Let's continue our tour of staff members' favorite places...

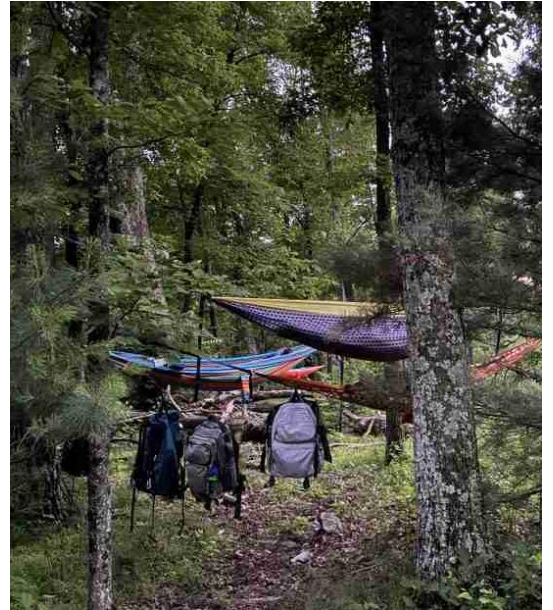
Most people have been to the pond. There's a nice sign pointing you in the right direction (just keep going straight on the entrance road instead of turning toward Evergreen). To get to Ali's favorite camp spot, however, you have to keep walking after you reach the pond. Walking. And walking. Walking up a big hill. Walking. THEN you arrive.



Turkey Feeder is one of the furthest sites in camp to walk to and you must channel your inner StairMaster skills to get to the summit where it's located. But Ali thinks the effort is worth it.

A regular site for overnights, you'll immediately spy the benches and campfire pit once you arrive. What you won't immediately notice is the actual turkey feeder, now buried by undergrowth, or the grove of trees at the back of Turkey Feeder, perfect for hammocking. That's a big reason Ali loves Turkey Feeder. She says, "It's one of the best hammocking spots at camp" where you can get a "good look at the stars and the moon."

Turkey Feeder has been around for a long time (hence the buried feeder), once hosting all-camp campfires twice a week. We still hold campfires there sometimes, and it's always been a common spot for Camp Director, Chad, to visit. Whether in need of simple recreation or decompression from a stressful day, you'll often hear him ask Associate Director, Jim, "How about a walk to Turkey Feeder?" Besides relaxing in a hammock and stargazing, Ali also enjoys hearing the unique call of the whippoorwill, a medium-sized bird that chants its name during summer evenings.



Hammocking has a way of chilling everyone out, the stresses of the world don't seem so big when you're cocooned in swaying cloth, listening to birdsong and watching the moon rise. The word Ali uses to describe how she feels when she's there? Peaceful.

*The end of Psalm 4 speaks to this feeling well:
There are many who say, "O that we might see some good!
Let the light of your face shine on us, O Lord!"
You have put gladness in my heart
more than when their grain and wine abound.
I will both lie down and sleep in peace,
for you alone, O Lord, make me lie down in safety.*

Turkey Feeder isn't a place where "grain and wine abound," meaning it's not a place of easy abundance and merriment. You have to work hard to get there! But once you see it, you'll know gladness in your heart and be able to lie down in a hammock and sleep in peace and safety, knowing your Lord God watches over you with love and compassion. Now cinch up your hiking boots and get started up that hill. Don't forget your hammock!

United Churches of Lycoming County's

14TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

26 SEPT. | 8 AM - REGISTRATION
2025 | 9 AM - TEE TIME

WHITE DEER GOLF COMPLEX

TEAMS OF 4

\$110/ PERSON

INCLUDES: GOLF, CATERED LUNCH, PLAYER PACKAGE

GOLFERS!

**Reserve your
foursome today!**

If you do not have a foursome, we can help arrange one for you!



(570) 322-1110



Bulletin Board

REMINDER

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.

OUTDOOR SERVICE

Sunday, August 31st at 9:30 am (weather permitting)
(the 8:00 am service will be held indoors)

SUNDAY WORSHIP TIME CHANGE AT ST. LUKE

Please mark your calendar for **Sunday, September 7th**. Our 8:00 am service time will remain the same; however, the 9:30 am service time is changing back to 10:30 am.



CELEBRATE RECOVERY

A CHRIST CENTERED RECOVERY PROGRAM

THURSDAYS | 6-8 PM

NORTHWAY COMMUNITY CHURCH

1680 FOUR MILE DRIVE
WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701
570.322.0143

**FREEDOM FROM LIFE'S
HURTS, HABITS & HANG-UPS**

United Churches of Lycoming County is seeking nominations for our 2025 Board of Directors

- Members at large serve a one-year renewable term with nine Board Meetings which are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month from 10 a.m.-noon.
- We want to hear your voice
- You can chair an event(s) or create event(s), if desired
- We desire people from throughout the county, not just the Williamsport area

If you are interested or have any questions,
please contact
United Churches at 570-322-1110

REMEMBRANCE DAY 2025



AUGUST 6, 2025 | 6 PM

Yasui Peace Tower-Corner of Pine St. & Little League Blvd

Hosted by: The Christian Social Concerns Committee
of the United Churches of Lycoming County

Dr. Robert S. Yasui commissioned the Peace Tower in the mid-1980s. He hoped that it would provide a place of meditation for the community; a place where those struggling with obstacles in their life might find rest. If you happen to find yourself in the area, listen for the beautiful chimes that play. At night, the tower is well lit and seems to beckon you to come and take a minute to reflect on the bench that surrounds it. The plaque on the Tower reads, "Dedicated...to the humanity that makes us all one."



SCRAPPPY FRIENDSHIP QUILT DAY

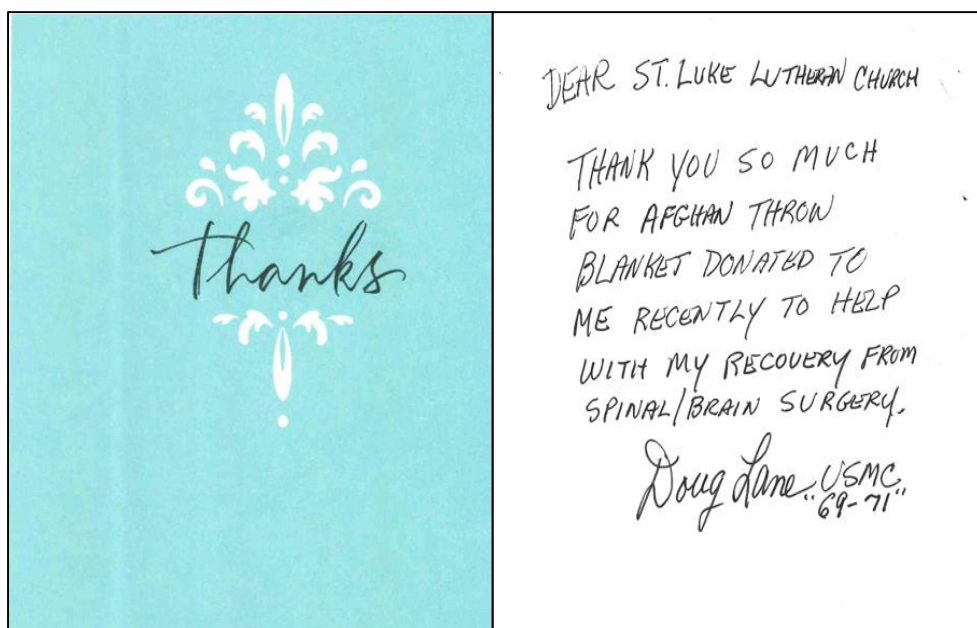
August 4, 2025 9am to 3pm, Bell Hall



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 8th 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!*



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.



KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.



To our members celebrating a birthday in August

William Hutchison	August 01
Macie Confer	August 03
Emily Wood	August 05
Kim Fremberg	August 07
Becky Donnell	August 09
Patricia Kelley	August 09
Carol Steck	August 09
Bella Young	August 11
David Shade	August 12
Sally Robbins	August 17
Barbara Coates	August 18
Quinn Smith	August 18
Braden Beck	August 19
Phil Harvey	August 21
Mary Lou Byerly	August 22
Westyn Hicks	August 22
David Horn	August 22
Gabrielle Sims	August 24
Dillan Read	August 27
Franciska Seyler	August 27
Roseann Husband	August 30
Joan Knaus	August 30
Barbara Lamade	August 30
Theodore Cockley	August 31

Happy Wedding Anniversary.....

Briggs, David & Margot	August 02
Scampone, Chris & Karen	August 02
Donnell, James & Becky	August 09
Fisher, Kirk & Sondra	August 13
Durand, Douglas & Patricia	August 18
Bailey, David & Diana	August 24
Ogurcak, Richard & Janice	August 27
Confer, Schane & Stephanie	August 31
Hutchison, William & Mary	August 31



(We're sorry if we missed anyone. If we did, please contact the office so we can add you to our records at 570-323-7309)

STAFF AT ST. LUKE



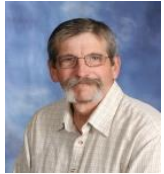
Pastor Jeffrey LeCrone, Pastor
Email: pastor@stlukeluth.comcastbiz.net



Karen Spencer, Office Coordinator
Email: info@stlukeweb.com



Rebecca Ciabattari, Music Director
Email: beckyciab@gmail.com



Chris Knaur, Sexton
Email: info@stlukeweb.com



Melissa Eshleman, Business Manager
Email: businessmanager.stlukeluth@gmail.com

REMINDERS: Office hours – M - F 9:00AM-1:00PM

Bulletin **deadline** – WEDNESDAY 9:00AM

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

Council Pack **deadline** – FRIDAY 9:00AM before Mtg.

Office E-mail – info@stlukeweb.com

Office Phone – 570-323-7309

tinyurl.com/StLWi

