

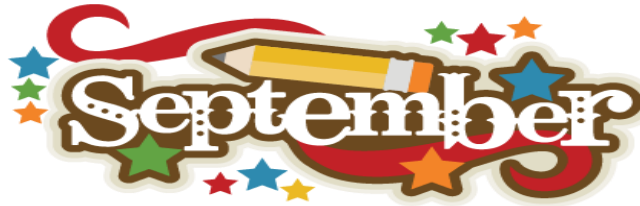


ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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:

"Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!" – Psalm 27:14

Nobody likes to wait. Most people want what they want, and we want it *now*. Whole industries have been built upon our collective impatience. Fast food has been around for a while, but now you can order ahead so you can start eating the moment you arrive at the restaurant. Electronic books are ready to read at the touch of a finger. And, if you live close enough to an Amazon distribution center, you can have just about anything delivered to your door not just the next day, but within *a few hours*. Ours is a culture of convenience. But every once and a while, we do get a reminder that "good things come to those who wait." For example, I love the convenience of a Big Mac and a Coke as much as anyone, but when the opportunity presents itself for a smoked Prime Rib and a fine wine, I don't mind having to wait for it.

This summer, I have encouraged St. Luke Church to spend some time listening to God as a congregation through a series of discernment sessions. But I have a confession to make. I thought I was patient enough to wait for a response from God. I wasn't. Even though my message was one of listening and waiting, I had a pre-conceived notion in my head of how these sessions would go. I didn't know what God's specific responses were going to be, but I did expect them to come in a specific way. Without going into detail, things turned out differently than how I envisioned them. Ultimately, I didn't do a great job of heeding my own advice.

The whole experience reinforced for me the importance of waiting on God. Now, let me be clear: "waiting on God" is not meant to be a passive thing. It does not

mean that we sit around on our hands until God does something. But it does mean allowing ourselves to disconnect from the myriad of things that demand our time, attention, and energy so that we can get a clearer picture of where God is at work in our lives and in this congregation so that we can join in on what God is already doing.

With that in mind, I am recommending the book "*When the Church Stops Working*" to anyone who is interested. The title has a double meaning. It addresses the fact that declining numbers suggest the church does not seem to "work" like it used to. But it also encourages the practice of stopping to wait on God. I recommend the book to anyone who is interested in the direction of St. Luke Church. Copies will soon be available at the church office, and there will likely be an organized study as well, but I don't have the details of either at the time of this writing, so you'll have to ... *wait* for those announcements. More importantly, may we all take the Psalmist's advice and wait on the LORD!

Peace,

Jeff



ANNUAL FALL HYMN SING
OCTOBER 5, 2025
LUTHERAN CHURCH IN MUNCY



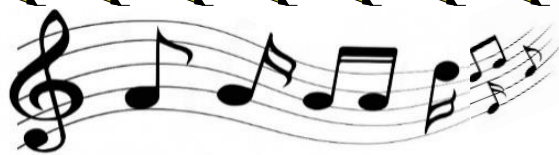
Pastor Jeff will be leading the upcoming Annual Fall Hymn Sing at Old Immanuel Lutheran Church, 2633 Lime Bluff Road, Muncy. The service will take place on Sunday, October 5, 2025, at 2:30pm. Relying on his dual denominational background, Pastor Jeff will be exploring the musical connection between the Lutheran and Methodist traditions, with several hymns by the prolific Methodist hymn writer Charles Wesley and prominent Lutheran hymn writers, including Martin himself. Each hymn on the program appears in both the Lutheran Book of Worship and the United Methodist Hymnal. Our own Rebecca Ciabattari will provide accompaniment on the church's antique pump organ.

Old Immanuel is considered to be the mother church of Lutheranism in Lycoming County. Founded in 1791, Old Immanuel housed a Lutheran congregation in four different structures until closing in 1920.

In those nearly 130 years, Old Immanuel gave rise to 19 other Lutheran congregations, some having also closed but others remain. Those 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.

The public is invited to attend this service as well as to tour the historic church. Light refreshments will be served on the church lawn after the service. Please note that the church does not have running water or electricity, and is not fully handicap accessible. For more information, or to follow Old Immanuel more closely, "Like" "Old Immanuel Lutheran Church" on FaceBook!!!





FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR,

Have I mentioned how much I love that this congregation enjoys singing a great hymn? So much scripture and meaningful messages can be found in these chord-driven, tuneful songs, and I often find myself “earworming” one or more of them as the weeks go by. With that, I welcome you as a congregant to have input into selections you love or would like to sing at church in the future. All you have to do is fill out an “I Wish” slip with your desired selection and place it in the box in the back of the church labeled “HYMN SUGGESTIONS.” I welcome your thoughts and input!

FOR YOUR CALENDARS:

Sept 7 – Sunday – Bells will begin practices at 9:15am; Choir will sing at the 10:30 service

Sept 28 – Sunday – Bells will play at the 10:30 service, to include a brand NEW sound

Blues for Blueberries! Enjoy some light jazz with our talented musicians, to include Dave & Diana Bailey, Dan Lamade, Becky Ciabattari, Conrad Mailleue, and Jay Nau, plus additional sound projection by Rod Strother.

Nov 16 – Sunday – At 4:00pm will be our annual Dialysis Benefit concert featuring organist David Jackson from upstate NY.

David Jackson holds a Bachelor of Science and Masters of Music degrees from Ithaca College where he was an organ student of Frank Eldridge. He is a retired vocal music teacher of the Spencer – Van Etten School District where he taught for 35 years. He has recorded a program of music for two organs entitled “Organa Dupla” in collaboration with Dr. George Edward Damp. Mr. Jackson is currently organist/director of Christ the King Presbyterian Church in Spencer, New York as well as organist at St Luke’s Chapel in Van Etten, New York. He has also served in the past as Dean of the Chemung Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.



SERVING IN SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES

8:00AM

Lector/Administrant: 7th Jeanne Yaggi; 14th Nancy McCarty; 21th Ed Kelley; 28th No 8:00 AM Service

9:30AM

Lector: 7th Melanie Taormina; 14th Sue Duchman; 21th Sue Beidler; 28th Cheryl Newburg

Acolyte: 7th Mac Harris; 14th Lily Judge; 21th Wyatt Judge; 28th Daniel Taormina

Altar Care: September – Sondra Fisher

Assisting Minister: 7th Marilyn Eshleman; 14th Allan Husband; 21th Charles Mahler; 28th Deb Smith

Communion Assistant: 7th Sue Beidler; 14th Patricia Durand; 21th Janice Ogurcak; 28th Becky Lewis

Greeters: 7th Sandy & Rod Strother; 14th Donna & James Martin; 21th Gerda LeCrone; 28th Melissa & Charles Mahler

Ushers: 7th Terry Belles; 14th Terry Belles; 21th Brad Nason; 28th Pre-School Sunday Lynn Shade & Deb Bernocco

Live Stream Assistant: 7th Daniel Taormina; 14th Charles Mahler; 21th Dan Taormina; 28th Brad Nason

Offering Counters: 7th Janice Ogurcak & Nancy McCarty; 14th Terry Belles & Ray Schreckengast; 21th Pat Kelley & Jannine Monness; 28th Sue Beidler & Marilyn Eshleman

WORSHIP TIME CHANGE Starting **September 7th**, 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 28th**, 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 Fall Blueberry Festival and Fall Kickoff event from noon to 3 pm.

HANDBELL PRACTICES will resume next **Sunday, September 7th from 9:15-10:00AM.** (between services). **Bells** will play at the 10:30 service, to include a brand NEW sound.

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.** Come and go as your time permits. No quilting experience is needed! ***BYOB – Bring Your Own Bag packed lunch – beverages will be provided by the church.***

ST. LUKE FALL BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL KICK-OFF



Please join us on Sunday, September 28th following our 10:30 AM 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 will be available for members and friends to fill with **non-perishable food items the end of September.** Please return them filled for Harvest Sunday on **OCTOBER 19, 2025.**



FALL MUM FUNDRAISER

PRE-SCHOOL MUM SALE PRE-SCHOOL MUM SALE will be running from August 18th – September 8th. This year the mums will be coming from the Potting Bench in South Williamsport. The cost is \$10 per mum. Orders can be placed with any of the Pre-School Board members. Just in case you don't know who they are, here is a list. Diane Gonzalez, Lynn Shade, Ed and Pat Kelley, Mary Beth Kibbe, Andrea Clark, Melissa Mahler, Janice Ogurcak, Susan Horn, Deb Bernocco, Cheryl Newburg and Becky Lewis. Our Church Council Liaison is Nancy McCarty.

Once the orders have been placed with the Potting Bench, they will provide us with vouchers for the mums. The board member will then provide the vouchers back to all of those who have placed an order.

Once you have your voucher you may go to the Potting Bench at until September 30, 2025 to select which mum you would like.

The Pre-School at St. Luke and all of the board members would like to thank you for your continued support of this outreach program. And remember, “it’s for the children.”

WEIS MARKET SHOPPERS



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. You can also pick up a flyer in the West

Hall that has a QR code on it. Just scan the code to register. If you registered last year, please register again this year. To participate in the program each shopper needs to register their Weis card each year. Thank you for your continued support of our Pre-School.

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. **The first meeting is on Tuesday, September 16th from 9:30 am -12 noon in the Lounge. All are welcome!**



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

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!

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*

Ground Coffee	Pancake Syrup	White & Brown Sugar
BBQ sauce	Flour	Wide Egg Noodles
Boxed Pasta but No Spaghetti or Macaroni		
Relish	Pork & Beans	Spam
Alfredo Sauce	Rice	Canned Mandarin Oranges
Mustard	Mayonnaise	Chicken Noodle Soup
Ketchup	Honey	Salt & Pepper shakers

(Note Coffee is divided up into sandwich size bags)



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.



SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS is in need 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.

*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.



community Bulletin Board



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.*

CHURCH DIRECTORY INFORMATION

Beginning September 7, the updated Members' Directory will be available at the back of the nave or from the church office.

If your information needs to be updated...ASAP--Deadline is August 31, 2025 please contact Karen Spencer at 570-323-7309 or email info@stlukeweb.com.

Thank you.



Trinity's Famous Lasagna Dinner



**Wednesday, September 17
4:00 – 6:30 pm**

Enjoy our Famous Meat Lasagna,
Salad, Bread, and Homemade Dessert

\$14 adult meal, \$6 child meal, Lasagna slab \$10

Eat in or takeout

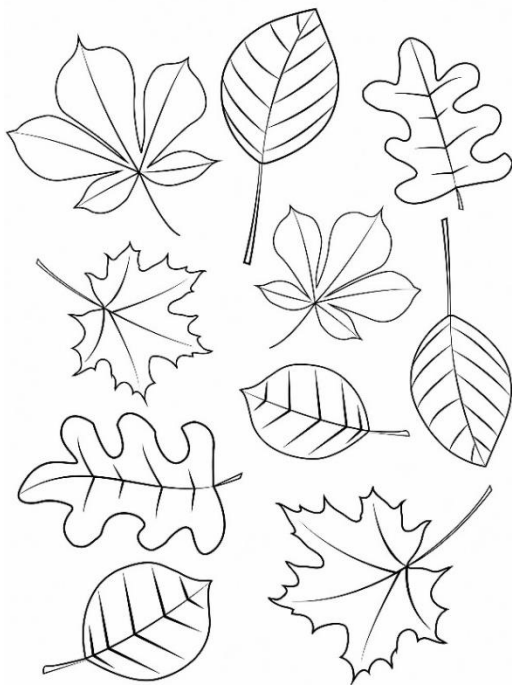
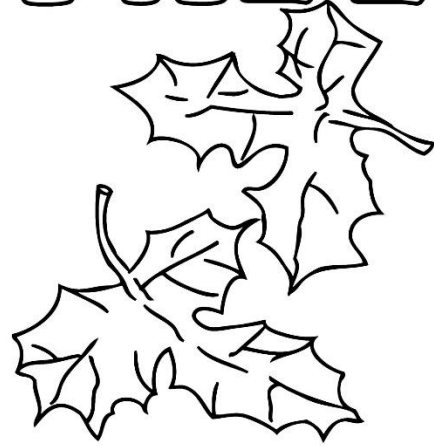
Trinity Pro-Cathedral

844 West 4th Street, Williamsport

570-322-0126

<https://trinity-williamsport.diocpa.org>

FALL



Redeemed



Gospel Quartet

Where: St. Paul-Calvary UMC

1427 Memorial Avenue; Williamsport, PA 17701

When: Sunday, September 14th
at 2:00 PM

A love offering will be received.

Refreshments following in the first-floor lounge



Upper Susquehanna Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Mark your calendars for this school year's Synod Youth Ministry events

CALLING ALL YOUTH!

Sep 14 - Game Night at Christ's, Lewisburg

Do you enjoy church but wish there were more kids your own age? Well then we have good news for you! You are invited to the Upper Susquehanna Synod Youth Group's first gathering of the new school year on Sunday, September 14, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Christ's Lutheran Church in Lewisburg. The theme is Game Night, so bring your favorite board game. We will spend some time getting to know each other, playing games, and enjoying some refreshments. All youth grades 6-12 are invited. We hope to see you there!



Oct 12 - Murder Mystery at St. John's, Northumberland

Nov 9 - Ping Pong Tournament (location TBA)

Dec 7 - Worship and Fellowship at Camp Mount Luther

Jan 2-5 - Winterfest in Lancaster

TBA - Renew Retreat

Mar 8 - Open Mic/Talent Show (location TBA)

Apr 12 - Potluck Picnic (location TBA)

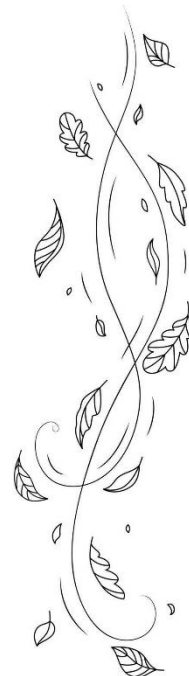




Lutheran Community for Middle Schoolers
FRIENDS + GAMES + WORSHIP
FAITH CONVERSATION + CAMPFIRE

'Better Together'

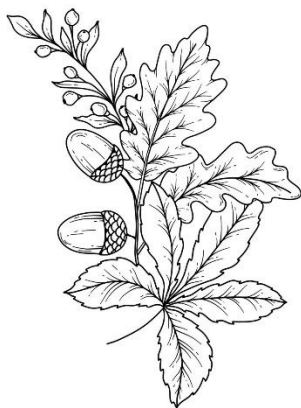
The Holy Spirit gathers and places us in authentic community, where we find strength and joy with fellow Christians. We are connected to Christ and to one another and as such can help in building up others.



Camp Nawakwa + September 26-28, 2025

REGISTRATION DEADLINE, September 8, at:

<https://www.lss-elca.org/alive/>



GOLFERS!
Reserve your
foursome today!

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

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

REGISTER NOW!

(570) 322-1110





★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!

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
Madalyne Andrews	September 08
Carole Steiger	September 09
Schane Confer	September 11
Rick Gonzalez	September 12
Charlotte Miller	September 15
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
Thomas Spitler	September 28



Happy Wedding Anniversary
Jack & Judi Yanosky September 16
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.)

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

