



**ST. LUKE EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**
1400 Market St.,
Williamsport, PA 17701

The Fourteenth Sunday – Holy Cross Day
Sunday, September 14, 2025
8:00AM & 10:30AM

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*This festival, which originated in the fourth century, celebrates the triumph of the cross. Paul reminds us that Christ crucified is the power and wisdom of God. As Moses put a serpent on a pole to be a source of healing for the Israelites, we lift high the cross as the sign of our health and salvation. Each time we make the sign of the cross we remember our baptism into the death and resurrection of Christ.*  
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GATHERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *The Lord is My Shepherd*, by George Blake

Stand

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

C **Amen.**

P Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Merciful and loving God,

C **we are your stiff-necked people.**

We trample on the needy.

We grumble about your grace to others.

We turn away from the poor.

Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.

**Rejoice over us as ones who were lost
and have been found. Amen.**



P Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful.
Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners.
You who were lost have been found.
In the name of ✠ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

C **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN LBW 526 *Immortal, Invisible*

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ was lifted high upon the cross so that he might draw the whole world to himself. To those who look upon the cross, grant your wisdom, healing, and eternal life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

Sit

FIRST READING: NUMBERS 21:4b-9

When the people spoke against God and Moses, the Lord sent poisonous snakes against them. Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord ordered him to erect a serpent of bronze on a pole. All who looked at it after having been bitten by a serpent would live.

[From Mount Hor the Israelites set out,] ^{4b} but the people became discouraged on the way. ⁵ The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶ Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

PSALM: PSALM 98:1-4 (*sung responsively: light print-cantor, dark print-congregation*)

The Lord has done marvelous things. (Ps. 98:1)

¹ Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done [|] marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have [|] won the victory.

² **O Lord, you have made [|] known your victory,**
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight [|] of the nations.

³ You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the [|] house of
Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory [|] of our God.

⁴ **Shout with joy to the Lord, [|] all you lands;**
lift up your voice, re- [|] joice, and sing.

SECOND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-24

At the heart of the Christian message is the word of the cross. This proclamation seems foolish to many because it reveals true divine power in the absolute weakness of Christ's crucifixion. True wisdom understands how ours is a God who suffers for and with humankind in the cross.

¹⁸ The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,
“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Stand

ALLELUIA



The Holy Gospel according to John the 3rd chapter.



GOSPEL: JOHN 3:13-17

After explaining to Nicodemus that one must be born of water and Spirit, Jesus speaks of being lifted up on the cross, with reference to the bronze serpent lifted up by Moses in the desert. Here the Son of God is revealed as the source of healing.

[Jesus said:] ¹³ “No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



Sit

SERMON

Silence for reflection may follow.

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY WOV 734 *Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling*

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world,
and all in need..

A brief silence.

After each portion of the prayers:

A . . . God of grace,

C Receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ,
our redeemer and friend.

C Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

The ministers & congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Peace be with you R Peace be with you


MEAL

Sit

CHORAL ANTHEM: *Christ Be in My Waking*, arr. by Larry Shackley,
featuring William Ciabattari, violin

Stand

OFFERTORY HYMN

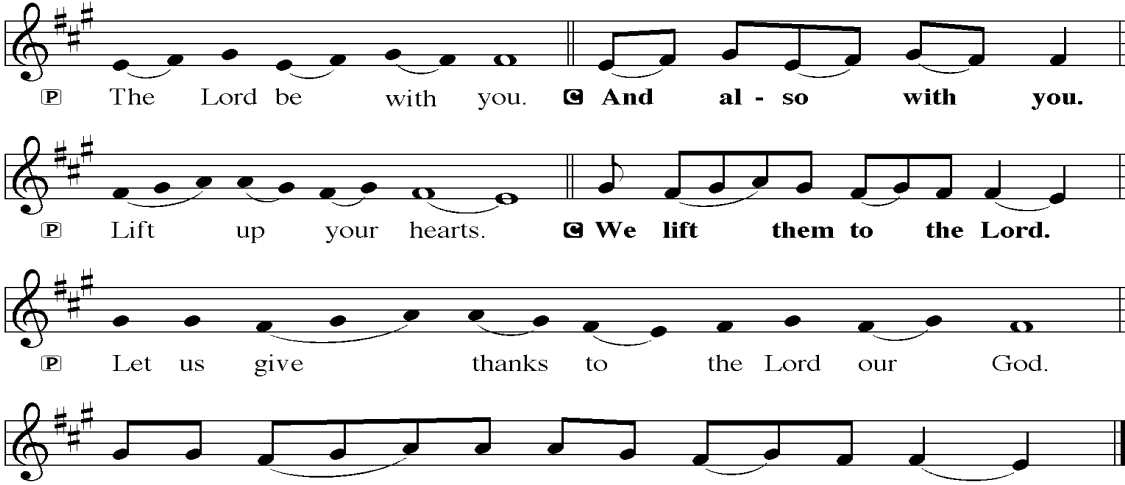


C Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

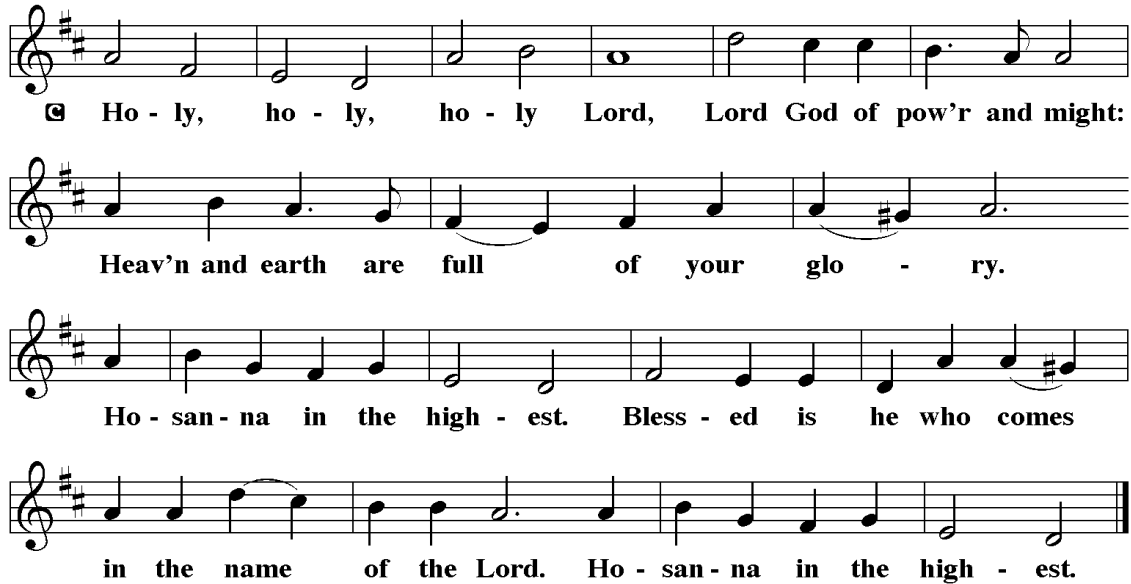
A Lord of the harvest,
we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.
Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,
but on you, who richly provides for us.
Multiply what we have gathered
to bless all who are suffering and in need,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.
P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right. . . (The preface appropriate to the day or season is said, concluding. . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy God,
our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,
you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your
abundance.
You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,
and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.
You sent your Son to eat with sinners
and to become food for the world.

In the night... (The pastor proclaims the Words of Institution, concluding)...Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
his life given for us
and his rising from the grave,
we await his coming again to share with us the
everlasting feast.

By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:
strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,
and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

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

Sit

COMMUNION (*Congregation Communes*)

All are invited forward. If you do not normally take communion, please cross your arms and you will be given a blessing. Children who do not take communion will receive a piece of bread with the words "Take and Eat." Visitors, if you commune in your home congregation you are welcome to commune here. (If you prefer juice rather than wine, please take one of the pre-filled glasses.)

As the ministers give the bread and wine, they say these words to each communicant:

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.



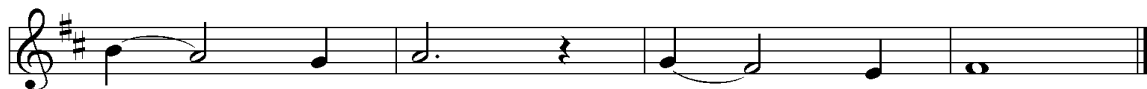
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

The communicant may say: Amen

LAMB OF GOD (*Administrants commune*)

Stand

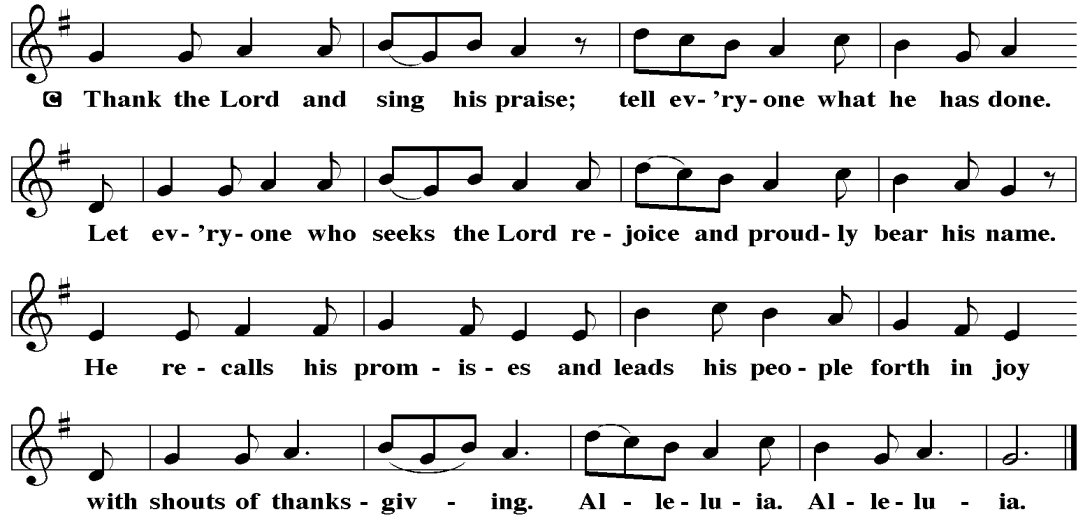
BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you

and keep you in his grace.
C Amen

SENDING

CANTICLE



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.
Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.
He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy
with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A O God,
through this meal you have strengthened us
and appointed us to be your servants.
Send us to do good and to share our possessions
with all in need.
We ask this in Jesus' name.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P The God of righteousness,
who gives justice to the oppressed,
who gives food to the hungry,
who sets the prisoners free,
✠ bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN LBW 377 *Lift High the Cross*

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Christ the Redeemer*, by Tom Birchwood

PRAYER LIST:

FROM OUR ST. LUKE FAMILY:

Glenda Merkel; Jannine Monness; Mary Beth Kibbe; Pat Bernocco; Linda Updegraff; Linda Liptak; David DeLong, Avery Lentz; Melanie Taormina; Rose Husband; Deb Smith; Rod Strother; Hank and Joan Knaus; Jim Labenberg; Dwight Rhodes; Amy Andrews and our homebound members.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Deb (Rhodes) Wertman (*Sister of Dwight Rhodes*); Cody Bodwell, Grandson, Mike Fuhrman, brother-in-law, Irene Colabine, Friend (*family & friend of Jan Ogurcak*); Birgit Schraudner, (*sister-in-law of Hanne & George Schuman*); Barbara Scott (*friend of Rod & Sandy Strother*); Denny Davis (*friend of Rod & Sandy Strother*); Pastor Ron Montgomery (ELCA retired Pastor); Ursula Conrads (*friend of Karen Spencer*); Betsy Rider (*friend of Nancy McCarty & Williamsport*); Frankee Shearer (*friend of Rod & Sandy Strother*); Chayton Hatt (*grandson of Wanda Gardner*); Dennis O'Brien (*friend of Rod Strother*).

After 4 weeks names will automatically rotate off, you may call the Church Office at 570-323-7309 to have them put back on the Prayer list.

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God in honor of the birthday of our son-in-law, Tim Eygabroad, by Susan & David Horn.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

TODAY: Sept 14th – The Fourteenth Sunday – Holy Cross Day

Please welcome Rev. John McNassor to the pulpit this morning.

8:00AM – In-person Service

9:15AM – Fellowship, Bells Practice, Adult Sunday School

10:30AM – In-person Service & Livestream; Choir Sing, Children's
Sunday School

5:00PM – 6:00PM – Cub Scouts – Bell Hall

SERVING AT THE WORSHIP SERVICE

8:00 AM:

Lector/Administrant: *Sept 14th – Nancy McCarty; Sept 21st – Ed Kelley*

10:30 AM:

Altar Care: *September – Sondra Fisher*

Assisting Ministers: *Sept 14th – Allan Husband; Sept 21st – Charles
Mahler*

Lectors: *Sept 14th – Sue Beidler; Sept 21st – Sue Duchman*

Communion Helpers: *Sept 14th – Patricia Durand; Sept 21st – Janice
Ogurcak*

Greeters: *Sept 14th – Donna & James Martin; Sept 21st – Gerda
LeCrone*

Ushers: *Sept 14th – Terry Belles; 21st – Brad Nason*

Acolyte: *Sept 14th – Luke Edmonds; Sept 21st – Wyatt Judge*

Live Stream Assistant: *Sept 14th – Charles Mahler; Sept 21st – Dan
Taormina*

Offering Counters: *Sept 14th – Terry Belles & Ray Schreckengast; Sept
21st – Jannine Monness & Pat Kelley*

THIS CALENDAR WEEK: Sept 15th – Sept 20th

Sept 15 – 7:00PM – Preschool Orientation

Sept 16 – 8:00AM – Pericope in Library

9:30AM – Shawl Ministry

Sept 17 – 7:00PM – Choir Practice

NEXT SUNDAY: Sept 21st – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

8:00AM – In-person Service

9:15AM – Bell Practice; Adult Sunday School

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

5:00PM – 6:00PM – Cub Scouts – Bell Hall

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FROM THE OFFICE *While Pastor Jeff is out of the office on vacation from September 13 – 20, The Rev. Brian Vasey is on call for pastoral emergencies. Rev. Vasey may be reached at 570-323-4619; Personal: 570-523-1415 or email: bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org .*

ATTENTION!!! PROPERTY COMMITTEE will be having a meeting on Sunday, September 21st at 11:30AM in Bell Hall. Contact Jay Nau 503-686-4550 if you have any questions.

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.

ST. LUKE BLUEBERRY FESTIVAL KICK-OFF



Please join us on Sunday, September 28th

following our 10:30 AM worship service from

Noon - 3:00 PM, **please note there will be ONE**

SERVICE on the 28th no 8:00AM service. 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.

COFFEE HOUR Beginning in September, the times for Coffee Hour will change. The early service Coffee Hour will be between services on the **FIRST** Sunday of each month by the chapel, and the late service Coffee Hour will be held on the **THIRD** Sunday following the service of each month in Bell Hall. The sign-up poster reflects these changes. Please consider hosting a Coffee Hour and/or contributing baked or purchased items to an upcoming Coffee Hour. If interested or if you have any questions, please contact Jeanne Yaggi (570)329-6980 or Ruth Croyle (570)433-3873.

HARVEST HOME SUNDAY Our St. Luke canvas food bags will be available for members and friends to fill with **non-perishable food items through September**. Please return them filled for Harvest Sunday on **OCTOBER 19, 2025**.

KEY INVENTORY is underway. We are in the process of updating our records of who has a key to the church. If you have a key, please let Becky Lewis or the church office know either what number is on the key or which door your key opens. If you no longer need your church key, please return it to the church office. Thank you for your assistance with this project.

SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS Items most needed at this time are Toothpaste, Woman's Deodorant, Bar Soap, Body Wash, Shampoo, Paper Towels **These hygiene items are collected in the West entryway.**

SERVING (*Lectors, Assistant Minister, Communion Helper, or Live Stream Assistant*) 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.

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.

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.

ONGOING COLLECTIONS AT ST. LUKE

DANIEL'S CLOSET needs your help! Seasonal 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.

THE FOOD PANTRY Your help is desperately needed! Food supplies are very low. Below is a list of items that the UCLC Food Pantry needs:

Mustard
Pancake Syrup and Mix
White and Brown Sugar
Flour
Wide Egg Noodles
Boxed Pasta but
Not Spaghetti or Macaroni
Chicken Noodle Soup
Ramon Noodles
Hearty Soups
Pork and Beans

Canned Meats
not Chicken
Alfredo Sauce
Chef Boy RD
Canned Pineapple
Canned Mandarin Oranges
Peanut Butter
Jelly
Ground Coffee
(*Note: Coffee is divided up
into sandwich size bag*)

These items are collected in our West entryway. After office hours'
drop-offs: Bell Hall foyer entrance.

SEW FINE QUILTERS

BLANKET SUNDAY

OCTOBER 5TH

This past year (Sept '24 – June '25) was a banner year for making quilts! We were able to produce 241 quilts.

The quilts have been or will be distributed as follows:

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) –	60
Shepherd of the Street (SOS) –	50
Project Linus –	103
Gatehouse (local Hospice) –	16
Sojourner Truth –	12
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Total –	241

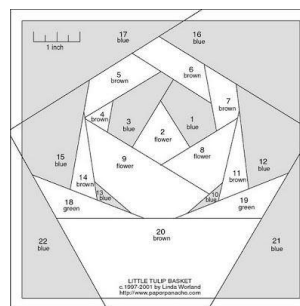
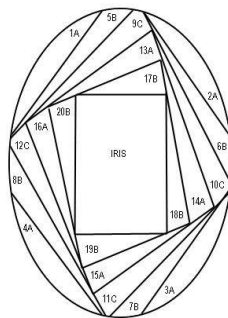
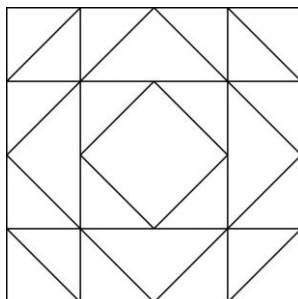
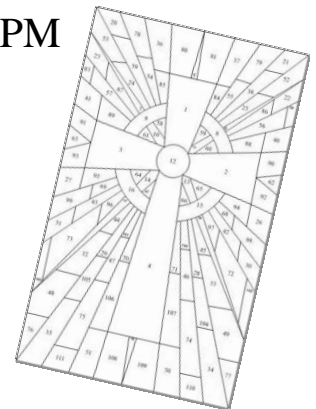
A HUGE thank you to all who made this possible! Thanks to all who donated fabric, sheets, thread, and especially the hours and hours of Labor and Love to produce them.

SPECIAL THANKS to
 Thrivent and to the St. Luke Fund
 who provided money to purchase needed items.

LET'S DO IT AGAIN THIS YEAR!
 Come join us Monday October 6th – 9:00AM – 3:00PM



BLANKET SUNDAY, October 5th
Some of the 241 Quilts will
be on display in the
Chapel & Nave



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

