



**ST. LUKE EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**1400 Market St.,
Williamsport, PA 17701**

**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Sunday, November 30, 2025
8:00AM & 10:30AM**

~~~~~  
*The new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.*  
~~~~~

GATHERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *Wachet Auf*, arr. by J.G. Walther

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,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure.

C Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Long-expected God,

**C we confess that we look to ourselves
for the peace and security only you can provide.
We reach for swords and spears,
reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war.
We become impatient while waiting
and weary of keeping awake.**



**Free us from self-reliance,
and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors.
Increase our trust in God's timing,
and awaken us to your advent among us,
that we may abound in the hope you have promised.
Amen.**

P God judges us not as we deserve,
but according to God's own righteousness.

✠ You are freed and forgiven,
saved by grace,
and ready to welcome the Savior.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN LBW 25 *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

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

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

WOV 630, Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah, sing verse 1

The first candle on the Advent wreath is lit.

P Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.
You call all nations to walk in your light
and to seek your ways of justice and peace,
for the night is past, and the dawn of your coming is near.
Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath.
Rouse us from sleep,
that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes
and welcome him into our hearts and homes,
for he is our light and our salvation.
Blessed be God forever.

C Amen.



WORD

Sit

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 2:1-5

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshipping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

² In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

³ Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

PSALM: PSALM 122 (sung responsively: light print-cantor, dark print-congregation)

*I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of
the LORD." (Ps. 122:1)*

¹ I was glad when they[|] said to me,
"Let us go to the house[|] of the LORD."

² **Now our[|] feet are standing
within your gates,[|] O Jerusalem.**

³ Jerusalem is built | as a city
that is at unity | with itself;
⁴ **to which the tribes go up, the tribes | of the LORD,
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name | of the LORD.**
⁵ For there are the | thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the | house of David.
⁶ **Pray for the peace | of Jerusalem:**
“May they pros- | per who love you.
⁷ Peace be with- | in your walls
and quietness with- | in your towers.
⁸ **For the sake of my kindred | and companions,**
I pray for | your prosperity.
⁹ Because of the house of the | LORD our God,
I will seek to | do you good.”

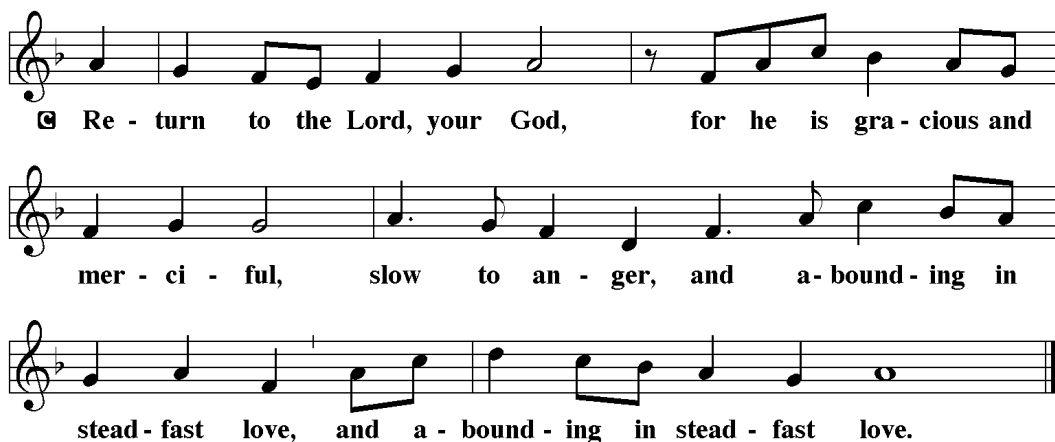
SECOND READING: ROMANS 13:11-14

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ's coming in the future.

¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 24th Chapter.

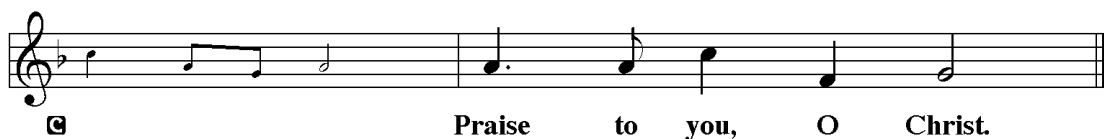


GOSPEL: MATTHEW 24:36-44

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶ “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



Sit

SERMON

Silence for reflection may follow.

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY LBW 31 *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying*

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 In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God,
trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole
creation.

A brief silence.

After each portion of the prayers:

A God of grace,
C **hear our prayer.**

The prayers conclude:

P Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.
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: *We Wait*, by Ruth Elaine Schram

Stand

OFFERTORY HYMN



C What shall I ren-der to the Lord for all his ben-e-fits to me? I will



of-fer the sac-ri-fice of thanks-giv-ing and will call on the name of the Lord.



I will take the cup of sal-va-tion and will call on the name of the Lord.



I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the pres-ence of all his peo-ple,



in the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of you, O Je-ru-sa-lem.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Nourishing God,

you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

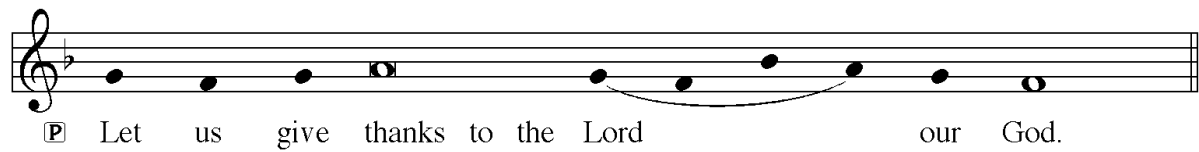
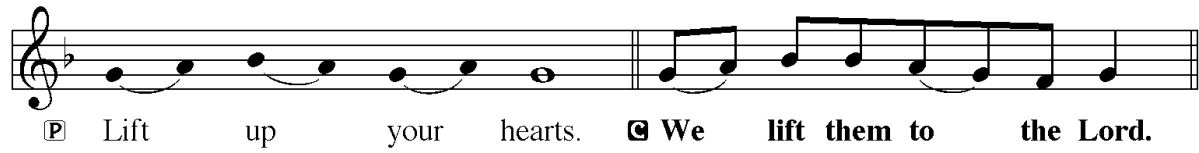
Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,

that we may rejoice and be for the world

signs of your kingdom come.

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



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 - ADVENT

P Holy God, the Beginning and the End,
our Salvation and our Hope,
we praise you for creating a world of order and beauty.
When we brought on chaos, cruelty and despair,
you sent the prophets to proclaim your justice and mercy.
At this end of the ages
your Son Jesus came to bring us your love
and to heal all the suffering world.

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

Remembering, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await his coming again
in righteousness and peace.
Send your Spirit on us
and on this bread and wine we share:
strengthen our faith,
increase our hope,
and bring to birth the justice and joy 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

LAMB OF GOD (*Administrants commune*)

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.

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 & wine, they say these words to each communicant:

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

The communicant may say: Amen

Stand

BLESSING

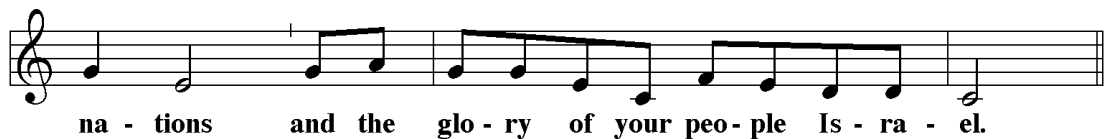
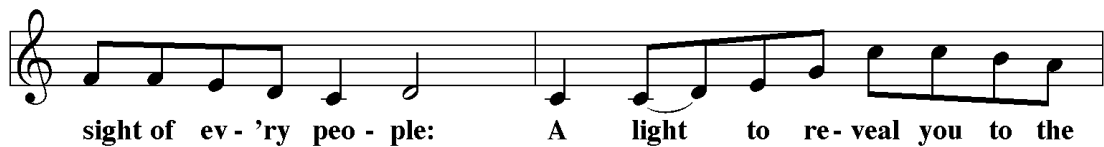
P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen**



SENDING

CANTICLE



POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A God our host,
at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness.
Send us forth, eager to share the feast,
welcome the stranger,
and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P May God who comes among us,
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN WOV 633 *Awake, Awake, and Greet the New Morn*

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Keep awake.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *The King Shall Come when Morning Dawns*, arr. by
Theodore Beck



PRAYER LIST:

FROM OUR ST. LUKE FAMILY:

Bill & Glenda Merkel; Samuel Mahler; Shirley Knade; Maria Garn Daigle; and our homebound members.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Deb (Rhodes) Wertman (*sister of Dwight Rhodes*); Cody Bodwell, George Zimmerman, Irene & Alan Colabine (*grandson, uncle, and friends of Jan & Richard Ogurcak*); Christopher Leidhecker; Marian Mundorff and Jeremy Huffman (*mother and a friend of Pastor Ted Cockley*); Kathy Eshelman; Betsy Rider (*friend of Nancy McCarty*); Chayton Hatt (*grandson of Wanda Gardner*).

For servicemen & women serving in posts far from home, and our
servicemen & women readjusting to their lives here in the States.

For persistence and strength for those going through all types of recovery.

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.

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR WEEK OF NOVEMBER 30, 2025

*The **Altar** flowers are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of our parents, Marlin and Joann Wolfe, by their daughters Sonya and Stacy.*



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

TODAY: Nov 30th – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00AM – In-person Service

9:15AM – Adult Sunday School, Bell practice

10:30AM – In-person Service & Livestream

SERVING AT THE WORSHIP SERVICE

8:00 AM:

Lector/Administrant: Nov 30th – *Nancy McCarty*; Dec 7th – Jeanne Yaggi

10:30 AM:

Altar Care: November – *Charles Mahler*; December – Nancy McCarty

Assisting Ministers: Nov 30th – *Marilyn Eshleman*; Dec. 7th – Mark Bergren

Lectors: Nov 30th – *Wilma Reeder*; Dec. 7th – Ray Schreckengast

Communion Helpers: Nov 30th – *Patricia Durand*; Dec. 7th – Becky Lewis

Greeters: Nov 30th – *Sandy & Rod Strother*; Dec. 7th – Gerda LeCrone

Ushers: Nov 30th – *Rod Strother*; Dec. 7th – Ruth Croyle

Acolyte: Nov 30th – *Wyatt Judge*; Dec. 7th – Daniel Taormina

Live Stream Assistant: Nov 30th – *Daniel Taormina*; Dec. 7th – Dan Taormina

Offering Counters: Nov 30th – *Nancy McCarty & Marilyn Eshleman*; Dec. 7th – Terry Belles & Sondra Fisher

THIS CALENDAR WEEK: Nov 30th – Dec 6th

Nov 30 – 5:00PM – Cub Scouts Bell Hall

Dec 1 – 9:00AM-3:00PM – SFQ Sew Fine Quilter – Tureen Lunch

– 6:00PM – Executive Committee Meeting

Dec 2 – 9:30AM – Pericope in Library

– 3:00PM – Service Meeting

Dec 3 – 6:00PM – Worship & Music Meeting

Dec 4 – 6:00PM – Outreach Meeting

– 7:00PM – Choir Practice

NEXT SUNDAY: Dec 7th – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00AM – In-person Service

9:15AM – Bell Practice; Adult Sunday School, Fellowship Meeting, Coffee Hour between services

10:30AM – In-person Service & Livestream, Choir Anthem

5:00PM – Cub Scouts – Bell Hall

~~~~~

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ATTENDANCE** – Please remember to register your attendance online using the **QR code on the back of the bulletin or fill out an attendance card** located in the back of the pew. Thank You!

### **UPDATED MEMBER DIRECTORY – IT’S HERE AND AVAILABLE!**

Don’t forget to pick up a copy located in the rack in back of church, in the West hall, and outside of the Office. Any corrections call church office 570-323-7309.

**YEAR END REMINDERS** Please note all donations to be counted for **2025 MUST be received in the Church office by end of business on Tuesday December 30, 2025.** Any questions regarding your giving for 2025, please contact the Melissa Eshleman, Business Manager at [businessmanager.stlukeluth@gmail.com](mailto:businessmanager.stlukeluth@gmail.com).

**2026 ENVELOPES** will be available for pick up in the West Entrance starting December 1, 2025.

**NEW COFFEE HOURS** are as follows: The early service Coffee Hour is between services on the **FIRST** Sunday of each month by the chapel, and the late service Coffee Hour is following the service on the **THIRD** Sunday 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.

**SEW FINE QUILTERS** - Come join the fun for our ***Last Quilt Day for 2025*** making quilts for Lutheran World Relief, the Gate House, Shepherd of the Streets, and Project Linus. Please join us on **Monday, December 1st from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm in Bell Hall. This will be a Tureen Lunch – Please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share – soups and beverages will be provided.** Come and go as your time permits. No quilting experience is needed! Any questions call Cindy Belles at 570-419-1363.

**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.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month (Sept.- May) or any time at home. **(Note: There will be no meeting in December).** **The next meeting is on Tuesday, January 20th from 9:30 am -12 noon in the Lounge. All are welcome!** Any questions call Nancy McCarty 570-419-7827.

**PARISH VISITATION CORP (PVC – CHRISTMAS DONATIONS ARE NEEDED** for filling Christmas bags for our St. Luke shut-ins and friends. A box is located in the West Hall for your donations. ***Suggested Items: Juice boxes, tissues, small notepads, puzzle books, hand lotion, chapstick, hard candies, individual packs of crackers or snack items, homemade cookies and treats, SUGAR FREE snacks for diabetics also needed.***

Anyone interested in helping to pack and helping to deliver the bags are invited to meet in the **Bell Hall at 1:00 PM on Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.** Any questions, please contact Cindy Belles.

**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](mailto:kohlerdede@gmail.com) or Pastor Jeff at 570-323-7309.

**GREETERS** Anyone interested in serving as a greeter, please contact the church office at 570-323-7309.

**USHERS** Anyone interested in serving as an usher, please contact Nancy McCarty - [nmac7149@gmail.com](mailto:nmac7149@gmail.com) or 570- 419-7827 or 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.

**2025-26 TIME & TALENT** - Extra *Estimates of Giving Cards* and *Time & Talent Forms* may be found at the back of the nave and the church office. Please feel free to take one, fill it out after the services, and return it via the red collection box (through Dec. 2025).

## **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 summer 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 needed are of regular sizes: Women's Deodorant, Kid's Toothbrushes & Toothpaste, Tooth paste, Diapers, Wipes, Powder, Oil, Q-tips, Soap, Shaving Cream and Razor, Tissues, **Shampoo** (completely out) and Conditioner, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Laundry Pods, Women's Hygiene Products, regular Tampons, etc. *These hygiene items are collected in the West entryway.*

**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:

Coffee and Hot Chocolate  
White Sugar and Brown Sugar  
Pancake Mix & **Syrup**  
Wide Egg Noodles & Ramen Noodles  
**Spaghetti Sauce** & Alfredo Sauce  
Canned Mandarin Oranges  
Canned Pumpkin  
**Peanut Butter** and Jelly  
Cake Mixes

Sauerkraut & Cranberry Sauce  
Canned Pie Filling  
Stuffing & **Canned Pineapple**  
Flour, Salt & Pepper  
Ketchup, Mayonnaise & Mustard  
Canned Spam  
**Boxed Potatoes**  
Pork & Beans and Hearty Soups  
Cake Frosting

NOTE: Items in **BOLD** are either very **LOW** or completely **OUT**.

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

[illegible]

## **STAFF AT ST. LUKE**



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



**Karen Spencer, Office Coordinator**  
**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 - 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](mailto:info@stlukeweb.com)

Office Phone – 570-323-7309

[tinyurl.com/StLW](http://tinyurl.com/StLW)

