

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Sunday, December 7, 2025 8:00AM & 10:30AM

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

GATHERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE Cradle Song, by Carl Simone

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, \(\psi\) 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. 中 You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN Hail to the Lord's Anointed (see insert) 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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

WOV 630, Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah, sing verse 2

The first and second candles on the Advent wreath are 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 second 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.

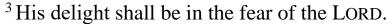
C Amen.

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 11:1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

¹ A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.



He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear,

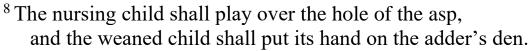
⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.



⁹ They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.



¹⁰ On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

PSALM: PSALM 72:1-7, 18-19 (sung responsively: light *print-cantor*, *dark print-congregation*)

May the righteous flourish; let there be an abundance of peace. (Ps. 72:7)

- ¹ Give the king your jus- [|] tice, O God, and your righteousness to [|] the king's son;
- ² that he may rule your | people righteously and the | poor with justice;
- ³ that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people, and the | hills, in righteousness.
- ⁴ Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people, rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.
- ⁵ May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure, from one generation | to another.
- ⁶Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field, like showers that wa- | ter the earth.
- ⁷ In his time may the [|] righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall [|] be no more.
- ¹⁸ Blessed are you, Lord God, the Î God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!
- ¹⁹ And blessed be your glorious | name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- | men. Amen.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

⁴ Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵ May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶ so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷ Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸ For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm

the promises given to the ancestors ⁹ and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name";

¹⁰ and again he says,

"Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people";

¹¹ and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him";

¹² and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come,

the one who rises to rule the gentiles;

in him the gentiles shall hope."

¹³ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 3rd Chapter.



GOSPEL: MATTHEW 3:1-12

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

¹ In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³ This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord;

make his paths straight."



⁴ Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his

waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵ Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶ and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸ Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, ⁹ and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ¹⁰ Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹ "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."



The Gospel of the Lord.



Sit

SERMON

Silence for reflection may follow.

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY LBW 36 On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,

of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. 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

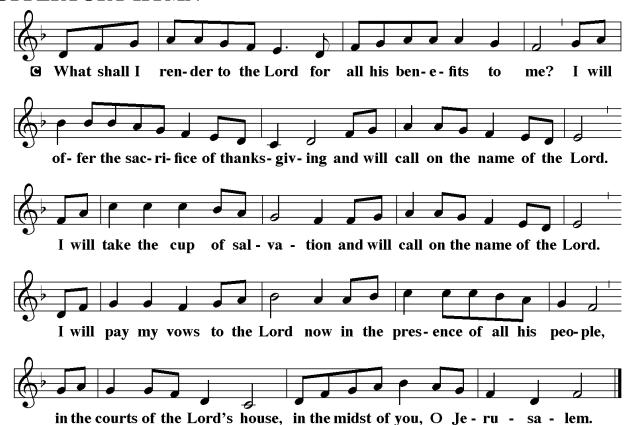
MEAL

Sit

CHORAL ANTHEM: *Of the Father's Love Begotten,* arr. by Paul Wohlgemuth

Stand

OFFERTORY HYMN



OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Nourishing God,

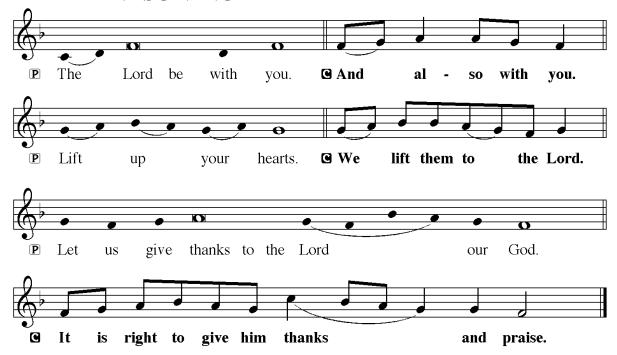
you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert.

Through this meal, satisfy our parched places,

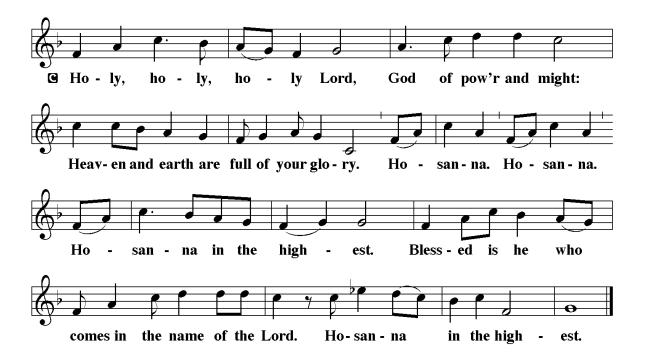
that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.

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.

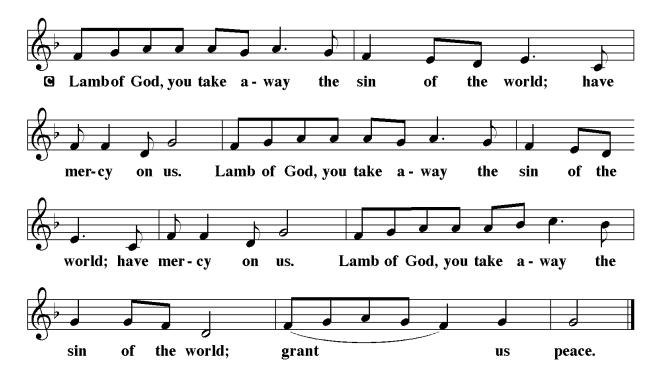
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

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

LAMB OF GOD (Administrants commune)



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 Come, Thou Lon-Expected Jesus

91 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



DISMISSAL

- A Go in peace. Keep awake.
- C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Of the Father's Love Begotten, arr. by Myron Casner

PRAYER LIST:

FROM OUR ST. LUKE FAMILY:

Linda Wolfe; 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 DECEMBER 7, 2025

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God in honor of Marian Schaefer by her children, Grandchildren and great grandchildren.



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SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

TODAY: Dec 7th – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

- 8:00AM In-person Service
- 9:15AM Adult Sunday School, Bell practice, Fellowship ministry meeting, Coffee Hour between services
- 10:30AM In-person Service & Livestream; Annual Congregational Meeting Part 1 immediately following the second service.

SERVING AT THE WORSHIP SERVICE

8:00 AM:

<u>Lector/Administrant:</u> Dec 7th – Jeanne Yaggi; Dec 14th – Ed Kelley

10:30 AM:

Altar Care: December & January - Nancy McCarty

Assisting Ministers: Dec.7th – Mark Bergren; Dec 14th – Charles Mahler

<u>Lectors</u>; Dec. 7th – Ray Schreckengast; Dec 14th – Jim Donnell

Communion Helpers; Dec. 7th – Becky Lewis; Dec 14th – Patricia Durand

Greeters: Dec. 7th - Gerda LeCrone; Dec 14th - Donna & Jim Martin

Ushers: Dec. 7th – *Ruth Croyle*; Dec 14th – Bad Nason

Acolyte: Dec. 7th - Daniel Taormina; Dec 14th - Lily Judge

Live Stream Assistant: Dec. 7th - Dan Taormina; Dec 14th - Daniel

Taormina

<u>Offering Counters:</u> Dec. 7th – Terry Belles & Sondra Fisher; Dec 14th – Ray Schreckengast & Janice Ogurcak

THIS CALENDAR WEEK: Dec 7th – Dec 13th

Dec 7 – 5:00PM – Cub Scouts Meeting

Dec 8 – 7:00PM – Church Council Meeting

Dec 9 – 9:30AM – Pericope in Library

- 1:00PM - Parish Visitation Corp (PVC) Meeting

Dec 10 – 7:00PM – MID-WEEK ADVENT SERVICE

Dec 11 – 6:00PM – Choir Practice (Advent/Christmas)

NEXT SUNDAY: Dec 14th – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00AM – In-person Service

9:15AM – Bell Practice; Adult Sunday School

10:30AM – In-person Service & Livestream, NO Choir, Christmas tree decorating following late service

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!

PLEASE JOIN US! The children of our Pre-School will be performing their Christmas program on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 6:30 PM in the Nave. We welcome the congregation to come and enjoy this festive program featuring our Pre-School children. The program will be followed by refreshments in Bell Hall. And don't worry; you will be able to enjoy our short program, sample the cookies (baked by our Pre-School Board) and still make it to the Mid-week Advent Service, at 7:00PM in the Chapel.

Ministry of Outreach is

happy to announce that \$645 was raised for Lycoming Helping Our Veterans during the Veteran's Day Flag Project. One hundred eleven flags were purchased and placed by the St. Luke Lutheran Church sign in front of the Church.



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.

2026 ENVELOPES are now available for pick up in the West Entrance Hall.

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 <u>THIRD</u> 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 *First Quilt Day for* **2026** making quilts for Lutheran World Relief, the Gate House, Shepherd of the Streets, and Project Linus. Please join us on **Monday, January 5th 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 with a lunch* – *beverages will be provided by the church*. 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 3rd 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

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

and treats, SUGAR FREE snacks for diabetics also needed.

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 <u>kohlerdede@gmail.com</u> 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 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 & Ramon Noodles

Spaghetti Sauce & Alfredo Sauce

Canned Mandarin Oranges

Canned Pumpkin

Peanut Butter and Jelly

Cereal, 64 oz Apple Juice

Canned Yams, Sauerkraut

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

Beef Stew, Chili,

Chunky Soup, Chicken Noodle soup

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.



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: <u>businessmanager.stlukeluth@gmail.com</u>

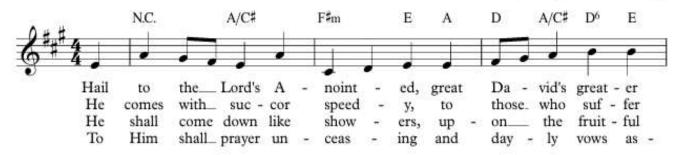
REMINDERS: Office hours – M - F 9:00AM-1:00PM
Bulletin deadline – WEDNESDAY 9:00AM
Spectrum deadline – 15th of each month
Council Pack deadline – FRIDAY 9:00AM before Mtg
Office E-mail – info@stlukeweb.com
Office Phone – 570-323-7309
tinyurl.com/StLW

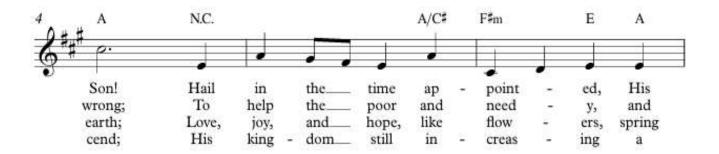


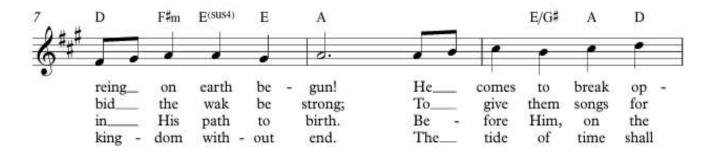
Hail To The Lord's Anointed

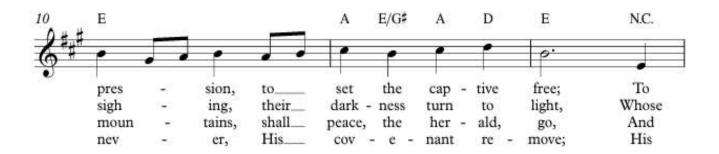
James Montgomery

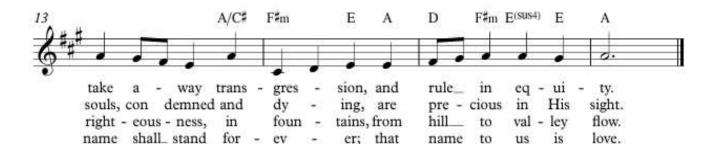
Gesangbuch der Herzogl

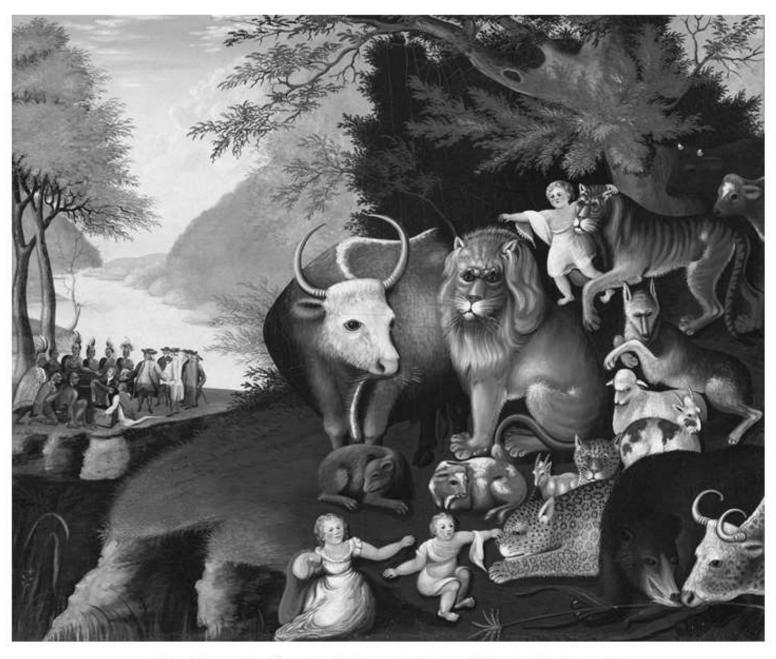












"The Peaceable Kingdom", Edward Hicks c. 1834 (Public Domain)
Currently in the collection of the National Gallery of Art, Washington, DC