



**ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
1400 MARKET ST, WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701  
570-323-7309 \* E-Mail: [info@stlukeweb.com](mailto:info@stlukeweb.com)  
St. Luke Online: [www.stlukeweb.com](http://www.stlukeweb.com)



## 2026 NEWSLETTER

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### From the Pastor's Desk April 2026

*"But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him."  
Romans 6:8*

He is Risen!

During the Lenten season my sermons attempted to look "Through the Eyes of Christ".

Each Sunday, we followed Jesus' path to the cross, trying to see things the way Jesus sees them. We saw that Jesus' greatest temptation (one he successfully fought off) was to abandon his identity in God. We saw that Jesus defines "eternal life" (John 3:16) as something way more than just an address in heaven. With both Nicodemus and the woman at the well, we saw how Jesus welcomes anyone (even adversaries and religious outsiders) who shows an interest in him. In the story of the blind man, we saw a Jesus who had to contend with opposition from religious leaders who were spiritually blind and could not see the life-giving work that Jesus was doing.

All of this built up to the truth that we discovered at Lazarus' grave. Jesus is **with** us, and because of his grace **we** are invited to be with Jesus.

As I write, we have not yet entered Holy Week, but our journey to see through the eyes of Jesus will certainly not end there. To be with Jesus is to be with him on the cross and to know that he suffered not only for us but **with** us.

And as Holy Week comes to an end, we will once again celebrate the great truth of our faith: that HE IS RISEN. And not only that, but that in dying with him, we rise with him as well.

This is the great story of our faith. But it is **only** a story until it intersects with **our** stories. As we enter into the Easter Season, let us not stop trying to see through the eyes of Jesus, but let us go even further. With the grace of God, may we see how the Easter story is OUR story.

He is Risen! And so are we!

Peace,



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### FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR

#### BELLS AND CHOIR PRACTICE SCHEDULE:

**BELLS:**

Every Sunday 9:15am except for Easter Sunday, our last practice being May 17<sup>th</sup>.

**CHOIR:**

Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 6:00pm (prior to Maundy Thursday service at 7pm)  
Remaining choir practices will go back to Thursdays at 7pm, for the most part until the end of May.

*Becky Ciabattari*

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## HOLY WEEK & EASTER WORSHIP



**Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>:** Maundy Thursday 7:00PM

**Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Good Friday 7:00PM

**Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>:** The Resurrection of Our Lord 8:00AM  
& 10:30AM (9:15AM Easter Breakfast in Bell Hall)

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## SERVING AT THE WORSHIP SERVICE

### 8:00 AM:

**Lector/Administrant:** April 5th – Nancy McCarty, 12th – Ed Kelley, 19<sup>th</sup> – Ed Kelley, 26<sup>th</sup> – Nancy McCarty

### 10:30 AM:

**Altar Care:** April – Charles Mahler May – Sondra Fisher

**Assisting Ministers:** April 2nd – Mark Bergren, 3rd – Charles Mahler, 5th – John McNassor, 12th – Charles Mahler, 19<sup>th</sup> – Marilyn Eshleman, 26<sup>th</sup> – Laura McNassor.

**Lectors:** April 2nd – Wilma Reeder & Nancy McCarty, 3rd – Melanie Taormina, 5th – Cheryl Newberg, 12th – Diane Thomas, 19<sup>th</sup> – Sue Beidler, 26<sup>th</sup> – Jim Donnell.

**Communion Helpers:** April 2nd – Patricia Durand, 5th – Rod Strother & Sandy Lentz and Nancy & Keith Wood, 12th – Melanie Taormina, 19<sup>th</sup> – Karen Baldys, 26<sup>th</sup> – David Briggs.

**Greeters:** April 2nd – The Strother's, 3rd – The Strother's, 5th – TBD, 12th – Jan Matz, 19<sup>th</sup> – Patty & Doug Durand, 26<sup>th</sup> – Cindy & Terry Belles

**Ushers:** April 2nd – Samuel Mahler, 3rd – Linda Updegraff, 5th – The Strother's, 12th – Ruth Croyle, 19<sup>th</sup> – Brad Nason, 26<sup>th</sup> – Chip Edmonds

**Acolyte:** April 3rd – Daniel Taormina, 5th – Mac Harris & Luke Edmonds, 12th – Mac Harris, 19<sup>th</sup> – Lily Judge, 26<sup>th</sup> – Wyatt Judge

**Live Stream Assistant:** April 2nd – Brad Nason, 3rd – Daniel Taormina, 5th – Charles Mahler, 12th – Dan Taormina, 19<sup>th</sup> – Brad Nason, 26<sup>th</sup> – Daniel Taormina.

**Offering Counters:** April 5th – Terry Belles & Jannine Monness, 12th – Ray Schreckengast & Janice Ogurcak, 19<sup>th</sup> – Sue Beidler & Marilyn Eshleman, 26<sup>th</sup> – Sondra Fisher & Pat Kelly.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**CHURCH EMAIL PROBLEMS** – It has come to our attention that some members are NOT receiving their weekly Bulletins & Monthly Newsletters OR some members are sending emails to the church and we are NOT receiving them. In the future, if you have not received your Bulletin or Newsletter, or if you have emailed the Church Office ([info@stlukeweb.com](mailto:info@stlukeweb.com) or [info@stlukeluth.comcastbiz.net](mailto:info@stlukeluth.comcastbiz.net)) and not received a response, please call the Church Office 570-323-7309 to verify email was received. Thank you for your help and patience. Karen Spencer, Office Coordinator.

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**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.



The **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL** class at St. Luke Lutheran Church meets in the church library at 9:15 AM on Sunday mornings. We will look at the lessons from the ELCA, based on the Year A Lectionary. I hope to see you there!

If you want to look at our course materials, all of the Lessons are available here: <https://elca.org/Resources/Bible-Studies> (we are in Lectionary Year A). If you would like to receive weekly lesson emails, please let me know and I will add you to the list. Please contact the church office 570.323-7309 or Charles Mahler at [Mahler@lycoming.edu](mailto:Mahler@lycoming.edu).

**SEW FINE QUILTERS** - Come join the fun for our *Quilt Day* making quilts for Lutheran World Relief, the Gate House, Shepherd of the Streets, and Project Linus. Please join us on **Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup> 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.



**PARISH VISITATION CORP (PVC)** meets next on **Tuesday, April 7, 2026 in the Library at 2:00PM**. Any questions, please contact Cindy Belles.



**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 or crocheted at monthly meetings held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month (Sept.-May) or any time at home. **The next meeting is on Tuesday, April 21st from 9:30 am -12 noon in the Lounge. All are welcome!** Any questions, call Nancy McCarty 570-419-7827.

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

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**DONATIONS NEEDED** The Ministry of Outreach plans to send care packages to college students during final exams. **Donations are due by April 12<sup>th</sup>.** We are looking for individual sized packages of chips, pretzels, nuts, cookies, breakfast bars, and candy packages. If you would like to donate, a basket will be set up in West Hall. Also, if you know of a college student or military person who would enjoy a box, please contact Janice Ogurcak at [jlo1956@gmail.com](mailto:jlo1956@gmail.com) or 570-772-8196. We want our students an military to know that we pray and care about them. Thank you!

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### **COLLEGE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

The Richard E. Swartz Memorial Scholarship Fund applications are available for pickup. The applications are located outside the office, on the wall rack.

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### **SEAFARERS - 2026**

**Seafarers Christmas totes for 2026-** Service Ministry is collecting men's hoodies/ sweatshirt-( no zippers) sizes L & XL—any color - **BUT WHITE** please. For cargo ship's crew members. We have the t- shirts- L- 22 ct. and XL- 38ct. Men's crew work socks are needed- 3 prs. for each tote. Colors- white/ grey/ black.

The hats/ cowls are hand knitted/ crocheted. Busy hands are working on 50 sets for 2026!!

Sweatshirts- hooded or not, drop off at the church office. Committee plans to assemble Seafarer Christmas tote bags in July.

Any donations are greatly appreciated. Times have changed- no white elephant sales in January!!

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**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](mailto:info@stlukeweb.com).*

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - The 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:info@stlukeweb.com). Thank you.



SIGHT & SOUND  
THEATRES

LIVE ON  
STAGE



A bus trip to see "JOSHUA" at Sight & Sound is scheduled for Wednesday, 9-23-2026. Meet at the west end of Beiter's parking lot at 6am. The price for the trip is \$178.00 per adult and \$109.08 for children 12 and under, which includes the ticket to the show, the bus, and a meal at Hershey Farm Inn. To purchase tickets or with any questions please contact Cheryl Williams at (570) 327-1627.



TOUR BUS

**\*BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS**  
From the banks of the Jordan River to the towering walls of Jericho, JOSHUA is a miraculous adventure for the whole family. Journey alongside the people of Israel as they navigate their new-found freedom in an unforgiving wilderness. When Joshua is called to replace Moses as their faithful leader, tensions mount in the midst of dwindling supplies and approaching armies. With one last fortified city standing between the Israelites and the Promised Land, unexpected hell emerges from behind enemy lines and Joshua's trust in God's plan is put to the ultimate test.

## A Variety of Gifts!

Join us for a day of learning and fellowship!

**Saturday, May 2, 2026**  
Registration/refreshments 9:00 am  
9:30am-3pm  
(lunch included)


United in Christ Lutheran Church  
1875 Churches Rd  
Lewisburg, PA

**Keynote: Worship by Pr. Larry Herrold**

**Workshops include:**  
Spiritual Practices

Reading for Public Consumption  
Go Tell it in the Mountain Initiative  
Congregational Led Worship

Worship Service at 1:45 pm in the sanctuary.



Now you are the body of Christ,  
and each one of you is a part of it.

1 Corinthians 12:27

Cost is \$10 per person to cover cost of meal.

Pre-register by contacting the Synod Office  
at (570) 524-9778 by 4/24/26.

Sponsored by the Lay Ministry Institute of the Upper Susquehanna Synod.

## 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.



**SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS** Items needed are of **regular sizes not trial**: Deodorant (Women), Toothpaste (Children), Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Laundry Pods, Twin Sheet and Pillowcases (new/slightly used).

*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:

Granulated White Sugar  
Ritz Type & Saltine Crackers  
Mayo, Honey  
Boxed Scalloped Potatoes  
Canned Pineapple, Alfredo Sauce  
Tea Bags, Coffee



Sm bottles of Ketchup  
AuGratin Potatoes  
Need of plastic grocery bags  
Need of egg cartons  
Mustard, BBQ Sauce, Relish  
Canned beets

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



# UPPER SUSQUEHANNA SYNOD

## APRIL CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**April 12, 2026**

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- **Youth Potluck Picnic**

April 12, 2026 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

**April 14, 2026**

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- **Fellowship and Faith (Catalyst)**

April 14, 2026 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Join us on Discord for a time of fellowship focused on faith as part of Mount Luther's new faith community. Questions? Contact Jim at [jim@campmountluther.org](mailto:jim@campmountluther.org)

**April 18, 2026**

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- **Service Project (Catalyst)**

April 18, 2026

Join us for a service project as part of Mount Luther's new faith community. Questions? Contact Jim at [jim@campmountluther.org](mailto:jim@campmountluther.org)

**April 19, 2026**

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- **Buffalo Valley Assembly**

April 19, 2026 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Milton Lutheran Church, 1125 Mahoning St, Milton, PA 17847, USA

- **North Branch Assembly**

April 19, 2026 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Grace Lutheran Church, 1315 Fairview Ave, Berwick, PA 18603, USA

**April 20, 2026**

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- **Lutheran Day at the Capitol**

April 20, 2026

Mark your calendars, tell your friends and plan to join us in Harrisburg for a day of learning, worship, inspiration and advocacy that makes a difference. Plan to bring a team from your congregation and help us be church together in Pennsylvania for the sake of the world God loves. Watch for details and registration coming soon!

**April 25, 2026**

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- **USSWO Day of Learning/Renewal**

April 25, 2026

**The Upper Susquehanna Synodical Women's Organization Day of Renewal/Learning** is scheduled for April 25, 2026, at Messiah, South Williamsport with the theme of "Meditating with God". Cost is \$35. Workshops will be given by Pr. Ken Elkin

and Keith Whitesel of Whitesel's Stained Glass. We will be doing a stained-glass project to take home. A free-will offering will go to SALT.

- **Synod Council Meeting**

April 25, 2026 9:30 am - 1:00 pm

**April 26, 2026**

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- **Middle Creek Assembly**

April 26, 2026 2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Sharon Lutheran Church, 120 S Market St, Selinsgrove, PA 17870, USA

- **West Branch Assembly**

April 26, 2026 2:00 pm - 2:30 pm

Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1101 Washington Blvd, Williamsport, PA 17701, USA

- **Juniata Valley Assembly**

April 26, 2026 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Messiah Lutheran Church, 3 S 3rd St, Mifflintown, PA 17059, USA

**April 28, 2026**

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- **Game Night (Catalyst)**

April 28, 2026 8:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Join us on Discord for a time of fellowship and games as part of Mount Luther's new faith community. Questions? Contact Jim at [jim@campmountluther.org](mailto:jim@campmountluther.org)



*Resurrection*  
SUNDAY

He is  
**RISEN**



# THE PRE-SCHOOL AT ST. LUKE

ENROLLMENT OPEN


2026-2027

THE PRE-SCHOOL AT ST. LUKE IS A SMALL,  
PART-TIME PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM RUNNING  
TUESDAY THROUGH FRIDAY FROM 8:55AM-  
12PM FROM SEPTEMBER THROUGH MAY

PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS MUST BE 3 AND POTTY  
TRAINED BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2026

CALL 570-323-2705 TO SCHEDULE A TOUR!


1400 MARKET STREET  
WILLIAMSPORT, PA 17701



# Joyful Noise!

## Grown-Up and Me Music Class

### A Kodály-Inspired Experience for Children & Grown-ups



- 6-Week Session
- Led by Master's Certified Music Educator
- Mondays at 9:30, Starting April 13
- 40 Minutes of Fun!
- Singing, Games, and Instruments
- 18 months - 5 years
- Adults Actively Participate

**Introductory Rate:**  
**\$75 per Child**  
**Siblings \$50 each**

Limited Spots! Scan to Register!




#### Meet Your Teacher:

Hi! I'm Brittany Bergman. I have 8 years of public school experience teaching K-6 general music, elementary choir, and elementary orchestra. I have taught preschool music at the J.V. Brown Library and at St. Luke's Preschool.



Classes will take place at St. Luke Lutheran Church  
1400 Market St, Williamsport, PA 17701

Follow us on Facebook: @BrittanyBergmanMusic



### Nominate Young Musicians for LSM 2026

Standard Enrollment Deadline: March 1  
[LSMacademy.org/nominate](https://LSMacademy.org/nominate)



**LSM 2026** takes place at St. Olaf College from June 21–July 19. Know a young musician (grades 8–12) who would thrive at LSM? Questions? [admissions@lutheransummermusic.org](mailto:admissions@lutheransummermusic.org).

Applications are now being accepted for **Bold Ideas grants**. As announced at the 2025 Synod Assembly, grants are available to encourage congregations in trying bold ideas for loving their neighbors and putting faith into action in their communities. The Bold Ideas grant review committee will be meeting in April to consider applications and award grants. If you have a bold idea for outreach in your community, consider applying! Deadline for consideration at April review is April 10, 2026. Email completed application to Sue Ellen Spotts, Director for Evangelical Mission at [sueellen.spotts@elca.org](mailto:sueellen.spotts@elca.org)

**Grants from \$5,000 to \$50,000**



# **BOLD** Ideas Grant

Funding for congregations dreaming big.

Applications now open!



UPPER  
SUSQUEHANNA  
SYNOD



## YARD WORK DAY @ ST. LUKE CHURCH

April 25<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM

We will be doing mulching, hedge trimming, etc.  
Everyone is welcome to participate!



# CAMP ♦ REGISTRATION ♦ NOW ♦ OPEN!



## Registration for Summer 2026 at Camp Mount Luther is open. Why Camp Mount Luther?

- Unplug from screens and enjoy life outdoors
- Learn from trained college-age staff and volunteer chaplains
- Build lasting friendships in small, supportive cabin groups
- Eat well, rest well, and use free time meaningfully

Check out the new summer brochure with programs for preschool through senior high, plus families and adults. Also, day camps in local congregations, bring the camp experience closer to home.

Camp Mount Luther offers a safe, faith-centered environment where kids and families grow, discover their gifts, make new friends, and gather around the campfire. This year's summer program runs from June 14 – August 4.





# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

*To our members celebrating a birthday in April...*

Chelsey Wood	April 02
Justin Wood	April 02
Jessie Young	April 04
Nancy Long	April 07
Gayle Peters-Coates	April 07
Halle Clark	April 09
Brett Clark	April 10
Eddie Good	April 10
Laura Good	April 10
Terry Belles	April 12
Mary Jane Webster	April 18
Marilyn Eshleman	April 21
Ed Kelley	April 25
Brad Nason	April 25
Linda Updegraff	April 26
Chuck Yohn	April 26
Karen Bergren	April 27



*To our members celebrating an Anniversary in April...*

Bob & Kathy Borch	April 04
Richard & Lore Tignor	April 10
Terry & Cindy Belles	April 19
Dan & Barbara Lamade	April 27

*We're sorry if we missed anyone. If we did, please contact the office so we can add you to our records.*

570-323-7309.

## **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)

