



**ST. LUKE EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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

***The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost,
Sunday, August 23, 2026
8:00AM & 9:30AM***

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*In Isaiah the people are advised to look to their spiritual ancestors as the rock from which they were hewn. Jesus declares that the church will be built on the rock of Peter's bold confession of faith. God's word of reconciliation and God's mercy are keys to the church's mission. Paul urges us to not be conformed to this world but to offer our bodies as a living sacrifice, using our individual gifts to build up the body of Christ. From the table we go forth to offer our spiritual worship through word and deed.*  
~~~~~

Please make sure your phone is silenced during the service.

GATHERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE – *Just as I am, Without One Plea*, arr. by Emily Maxson Porter

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,
whose compassion endures forever.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Compassionate God,

C we confess to you all our sins.

Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves.

In your mercy, call us back to you.

Your yoke is easy and your burden is light.

**Restore us to dwell in your peace.
In Christ's name we pray,
Amen.**

P Jesus says, "Come to me,
all you who are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest."

In the name of God,
Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit,
your sins are forgiven.
Rest in God's love.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN – WOV 783 *Seek Ye First*

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

**O God, with all your faithful followers of every age, we praise you, the
rock of our life. Be our strong foundation and form us into the body of
your Son, that we may gladly minister to all the world, through Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.**

WORD

Sit

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 51:1-6

*Just as God had called Abraham and Sarah and given them many descendants,
so now God offers comfort to Zion. God's deliverance will come soon and will
never end.*

¹ Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness,
you who seek the Lord.

Look to the rock from which you were hewn
and to the quarry from which you were dug.

² Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah, who bore you,
for he was but one when I called him,

but I blessed him and made him many.

³ For the Lord will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places
and will make her wilderness like Eden,
her desert like the garden of the Lord;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.

⁴ Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation,
for a teaching will go out from me
and my justice for a light to the peoples.

⁵ I will bring near my deliverance swiftly;
my salvation has gone out,
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.

⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens
and look at the earth beneath,
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats,
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended..

PSALM: PSALM 138 (read responsively: light print-cantor,
dark print-congregation)

O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever. (Ps. 138:8)

¹ I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with [|] my whole heart;
before the gods I will [|] sing your praise.

² **I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name,
because of your steadfast [|] love and faithfulness;
for you have glorified your name and your word a- [|] bove all
things.**

³ When I called, you [|] answered me;
you increased my [|] strength within me.

⁴ **All the rulers of the earth will praise [|] you, O Lord,
when they have heard the words [|] of your mouth.**

⁵ They will sing of the ways [|] of the Lord,
that great is the glory [|] of the Lord.

⁶ **The Lord is high, yet cares | for the lowly,
perceiving the haughty | from afar.**
⁷ **Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you | keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your
right | hand shall save me.**
⁸ **You will make good your pur- | pose for me;
O Lord, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon
the works | of your hands.**

SECOND READING: ROMANS 12:1-8

In response to God's merciful activity, we are to worship by living holistic, God-pleasing lives. Our values and viewpoints are not molded by the time in which we live but are transformed by the Spirit's renewing work. God's grace empowers different forms of service among Christians, but all forms of ministry function to build up the body of Christ.

¹ I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ² Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵ so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶ We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸ the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

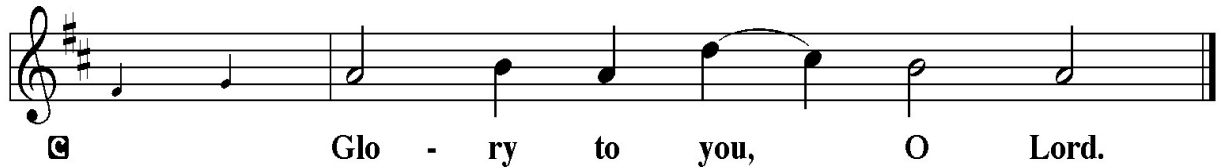
Stand

ALLELUIA

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 16th Chapter.

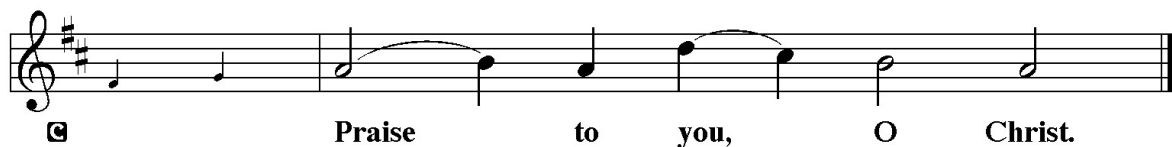


GOSPEL: MATTHEW 16:13-20

At a climactic point in Jesus' ministry, God reveals to Peter that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," and Jesus responds with the promise of a church that will overcome the very gates of Hades.

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰ Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The Gospel of the Lord.



Sit

SERMON

Silence for reflection may follow.

Stand

HYMN OF THE DAY – LBW 369 *The Church's One Foundation*

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 With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church,
those in need, and all of God's creation.

A brief silence. After each portion of the prayers:

A Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

P Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All
this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

MUSICAL OFFERING – (9:30)

Stand

OFFERTORY HYMN

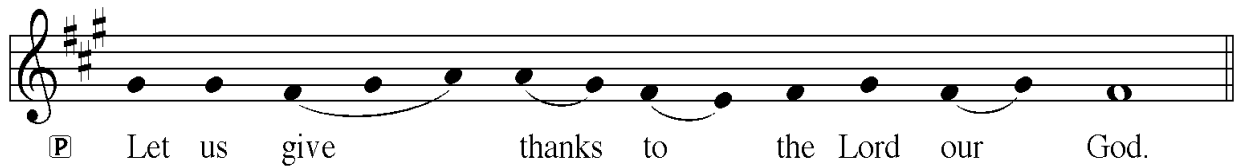


Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and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

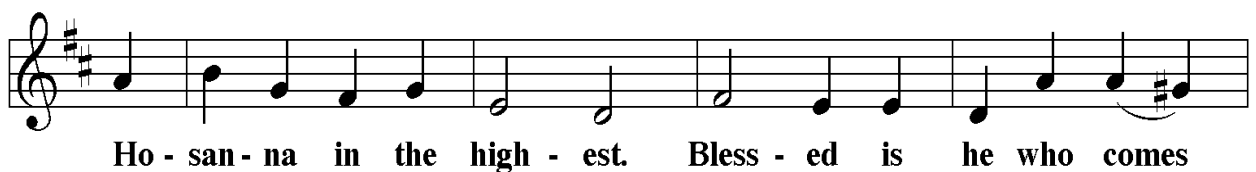
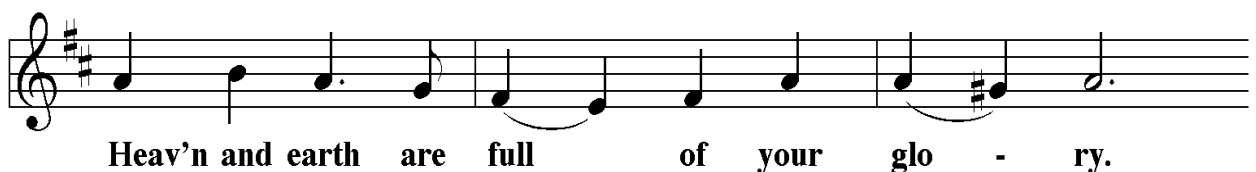
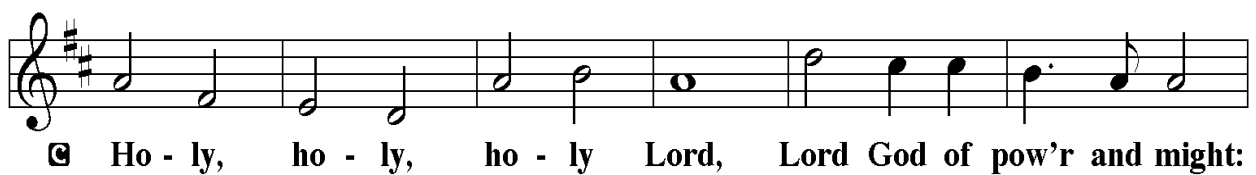
OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Loving God,
we offer at your table the gifts of our hearts.
Help us take heart in you and share freely of your love,
so that all creation can taste your abundance.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit abiding with us now and forever.
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

P Holy God,
 our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,
 in the harmonious world of your creation,
 the plants and animals,
 the seas and stars
 were whole and well in your praise.
When sin had scarred the world,
 you sent your Son to heal our ills
 and to form us again into one.

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

Remembering, therefore,
 his acts of healing,
 his body given up,
 and his victory over death,
 we await that day when all the peoples of the earth
 will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.
Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:
 as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,
 so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,
 that all may be fed with the Bread of life, 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*)



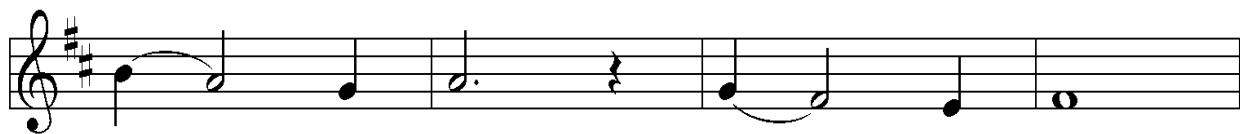
C Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



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.

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.

The communicant may say: Amen

Stand

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

C Amen

CANTICLE



C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev- 'ry- one what he has done.



Let ev- 'ry- one who seeks the Lord re - jice 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 Compassionate God,
through the gifts of bread and wine
our hearts are filled with the abundance of your love.
Strengthen us that we, through this holy meal,
may share your love freely, as you have shared with us.
We ask this in the name of Jesus,
through the Spirit nourishing us now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

P Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer,
✠ one God,
bless, heal, and hold you
today and always.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN – LBW 500 - *Faith of Our Fathers*

DISMISSAL

A Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – *Hear Us Now, Our God and Father*, arr. by David Lasky

ALTAR FLOWERS FOR WEEK OF AUGUST 23, 2026

The Altar flowers are in memory of my parents and grandparents Bill & Shirley Collins, Cora & Gordon Leidhecker, and Harold & Dorothy Collins by Kim & Bill Collins.



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PRAYER LIST

FROM OUR ST. LUKE FAMILY:

Maria Daigle; Samuel Mahler and our homebound members.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS:

Declan Gregory (co-worker of Sandra Lentz Strother); Deb (Rhodes) Wertman (*Sister of Dwight Rhodes*); Kathy Eshleman (*friend of Hanne Schuman*).

FAMILY AND FRIENDS MOURNING:

† The loss of Sue Meyers (*friend of Kirk & Sondra Fisher*);

For servicemen & women serving in posts far from home, and 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.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

TODAY: Aug 23rd THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

8:00AM – In-person Service

9:30AM – In-person Service & Livestream, Property Meeting after service

SERVING DURING WORSHIP

8:00 AM:

Lector/Administrant: Aug 23rd – Jeanne Yaggi; 30th – Ed Kelley

9:30 AM:

Altar Care: AUGUST – Sondra Fisher ~ SEPTEMBER – Cindy Belles

Assisting Ministers: Aug 23rd – John McNassor; 30th – Mark Bergren

Lectors: Aug 23rd – *Melanie Taormina*; 30th – Ray Schreckengast

Communion Helpers: Aug 23rd – *Sue Beidler*; 30th – David Briggs

Greeters: Aug 23rd – *Ruth Croyle*; 30th – The Strothers

Ushers: Aug 23rd – *Charles Mahler*; 30th – Charles Mahler

Acolyte: Aug 23rd – *Lily Judge*; 30th – Daniel Taormina

Live Stream Assistant: Aug 23rd – *Daniel Taormina*; 30th – Charles Mahler

Offering Counters: Aug 23rd – *Sue Beidler & Jannine Monness*;
30th – Terry Belles & Charles Duchman

THIS CALENDAR WEEK: Aug 24th – Aug 29th

Aug 25th – 9:30AM – Pericope

NEXT SUNDAY: Aug 30th – THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

8:00AM – In-person Service

9:30AM – In-person Service & Livestream

ANNOUNCEMENTS



PRE-SCHOOL MUM SALE will be running from **August 18th – September 8th**. This year the mums will be coming from the Potting

Bench in South Williamsport. The cost is \$10 per mum. Orders can be placed with any of the Pre-School Board members. Just in case you don't know who they are, here is a list. Elizabeth Harris, Stephanie Confer Lynn Shade, Ed and Pat Kelley, Mary Beth Kibbe, Andrea Clark, Melissa Mahler, Janice Ogurcak, Susan Horn, Cheryl Newburg and Becky Lewis. Our Church Council Liaison is Nancy McCarty.

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

Once you have your voucher you may go to the Potting Bench at until September 30, 2026 to select which mum you would like.

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

PARISH VISITATION CORP (PVC)

The next meeting is on **Tuesday, September 1, 2026 in the Library at 2:00PM**. Any questions, please contact Cindy Belles at 570-419-1363.

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday, September 3rd at 6:00PM** in the library. Anyone interested in joining us is welcome to attend. We will be discussing the ***Festival and other events.*** Any questions call Jan Ogurcak at 570-772-8196 or email jlo1956@gmail.com.

SEW FINE QUILTERS

Come join the fun for our First Quilter work day making quilts for Lutheran World Relief, the Gate House, Shepherd of the Streets, and Project Linus. Please join us for our first work day on **Monday, September 14th from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm in Bell Hall.** Come and go as your time permits. No quilting experience is needed! Lunch – Salad bar & Desserts. Any questions, call Cindy Belles at 570-419-1363.



FALL FESTIVAL

Collecting for the **Fall Festival, September 13, 2026**, books of any kind and puzzles (in the box) to “**EXCHANGE!**” A great and free way to pass books and puzzles on to a new home! Collecting in the West Hallway. The Service Ministry thanks you!

SHAWL MINISTRY

*The Prayer Shawl Ministry resumes monthly crafting gatherings on **Tuesday, September 15 from 9:30-Noon in the Lounge.*** They will continue on the third Tuesday, September - May. All are welcome to join us as we knit and/or crochet shawls to bring comfort in times of suffering or need. Yarn, needles, patterns and lessons are available for beginners. Any questions, call Nancy McCarty 570-419-7827.

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.

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 , 570- 419-7827 or church office at 570-323-7309.

PRAYER CHAIN - 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.

SERVING (*Lectors, Assistant Minister, Communion Helper, or Live Stream Assistants*) If you would like to help serve in our 8:00AM or 10:30AM (9:30AM during the Summer) worship service(s), please contact Diane Kohler at 570-419-7085 or email kohlerdede@gmail.com or Pastor Jeff at 570-323-7309.

ONGOING COLLECTIONS AT ST LUKE

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	Boxed Potatoes
Small ketchups	Canned Pineapple
Wide Egge Noodles	Alfredo Sauce
Saltine & Ritz Crackers	Canned beets & white Potatoes
Pork & Beans and SPAM	Tea bags & Coffee
Ramen & Chicken Noodle Soup	Mandarin Oranges
Condiments (Ketchup, BBQ, Mayo,	Mustard, Mayo

Also, in need of: Plastic bags and egg cartons

These items are collected in our West entryway.

After office hours' drop-offs: Bell Hall foyer entrance.

SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS - Items needed are of regular sizes **not trial size**: Deodorant (Women's), shampoo, soap (body & hand), Children's Toothbrushes & Toothpaste, Q-tips, Band-Aids, Combs (men, women, children), Tissues, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Laundry Pods, Sunscreen. *These hygiene items are collected in the West entryway.*

DANIEL'S CLOSET - 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.

STOP
LISTEN
HEAR



NWPA & SWPA
Women of ELCA Retreat at
Lutherlyn
September 25th -27th

Bible Verse: Mark 4:23
"If you have ears to hear, then hear!"
NRSVUE

Important notes

- Registration will close on **September 10, 2026**. Please plan ahead of time so you don't miss this deadline. Checks must be posted marked by this date as well.
- Make checks payable to: **SWPA-SWO/WELCA**
- Questions/concerns contact Jennifer Schaefer at 724-664-2077 or Jenniferlyns@comcast.net
- **Please use QR code to register, then mail check to:**

Jennifer Schaefer
% WELCA Lutherlyn Retreat
1210 Beach Drive
Latrobe, PA 15650



Online registration link



SEPTEMBER 19, 2026 10AM - 12PM ELECTRONICS RECYCLING EVENT

About Our Event:

Recycle Unwanted Electronics Safely and Securely

Items accepted are: Computers, laptops, smartphones, tablets, servers, routers, firewalls, printers, CD players, radios and more. **We do NOT accept: CRT TELEVISIONS or MONITORS, washers, dryers, microwaves, freon-related appliances such as air conditioners.**

KVS Computers, the area's official R2 certified electronics recycler, will securely sanitize or destroy any hard drives.

\$5 Minimum Donation — Help Support Scouts

- **NOW ACCEPTING FLAT SCREEN TV'S** - \$20.00 per TV
- Bring your unwanted electronics to the **St Luke Church 1400 Market Street Williamsport, PA**



+570-971-9231 | EXITDOS@GMAIL.COM

Annual Dialysis Benefit Concert

begun by Dick Lakey
to support the patients & families
of Independent Dialysis Clinics

Sunday October 4, 2026

2:30 in the afternoon

St. Luke Lutheran Church

1400 Market St. Williamsport, PA (at Grampian Blvd.)

Performance by the Lycoming Low Brass Collective

An outreach of the Lycoming College music department, the Lycoming Low Brass Collective aims to serve our community through quality brass music played on Trombone, Euphonium or Tuba. This ensemble had previously performed at the St. Luke Dialysis Benefit concert in 2010, as well as First Friday Williamsport, Central Oak Heights, area elder care homes, the Williamsport Music Club and several concerts at Lycoming College. Prepare to be "blown away!"

Refreshments will follow the concert

STAFF AT ST. LUKE



Pastor Jeffrey LeCrone, Pastor
Email: pastor@stlukeluth.comcastbiz.net



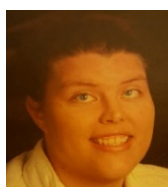
Karen Spencer, Office Coordinator
Email: info@stlukeweb.com



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 Newsletter **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

