

Together In Faith

St. Luke Lutheran

1432 Heidelberg Ave
Schaefferstown, PA 17088
717-949-3375

www.stlukelutheran.org
office @ stlukelutheran.org

Pastor

Rev. Angela Hammer

Pastor email:

pastorafshammer@gmail.com

Music Director

JP Welliver

Sunday Worship:

8:30 AM

(Holy Communion)

St. Paul Penryn

1258 Newport Road
Penryn, PA 17564
717-665-6093

www.stpaulpenryn.org
stpaulpen@gmail.com

Pastor

Rev. Angela Hammer

Pastor email:

pastorafshammer@gmail.com

Music Director

JP Welliver

Sunday Worship:

10:30 AM

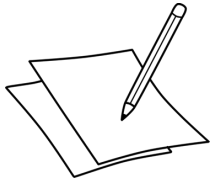
(Holy Communion)



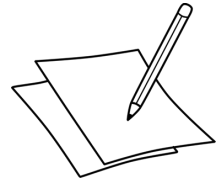
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From Pastor



Time does that thing that it always does... it marches on. And when time does the thing, it always does, we are always surprised at the speed of which time moves. Time either moves too slowly or too fast for our liking. We are often surprised at the passing of time. We have all said things like, "I can't believe summer is over!" "How can it already be November?" "How is it possible I'm 50 years old?!?!". Still... Time marches on, and we are almost always caught off guard and surprised by the passing of time.

In moments of surprise, that is when we discover the astonishment of God's work and God's purposes. When it comes to God, surprise is a matter of perspective. Few of the characters in the gospels really knew or understood God's trajectory, but they should have. The message was clearly telegraphed: God will save God's people. Even if God's choice of incarnation was surprising, it was still well within the character of God as attested by the ancient Hebrew prophets. God had been sending the messages for quite some time that things would happen just so, yet God still managed to surprise.

As time marches on, we find ourselves on the cusp of the Advent season. A time of expectation. In addition to expectation, we may also experience feelings of astonishment, amazement, bewilderment, excitement, and thrill that come with the life of faith. Such feelings may accompany a new direction, a rediscovery of purpose, or an eye-opening epiphany. Surprise can be bright and loud, but it can be quiet, too. A different sense of astonishment accompanies us when we discover that God's goodness has draped itself in muted clothes and quietly worked behind the scenes of our lives.

As time marches on, and we somehow find ourselves once again facing winter and Christmas season, regardless of the speed of time, try to stay present in the moment. When we're present, we're open to Christ with us – in the silence and chaos, in the grief and joy, in the darkness and in the light.

God is with us in the passing of time, in the change of seasons, in the familiar and in the unexpected. We may not be ready for the seasons to change or for time to pass, but God is faithful and is with us in all of it. And as we approach Advent, my hope is you enter in the season with awe and excitement, and grateful for the time which has been given to you.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Angie



Worship

**Sunday, November 2nd - All Saints**

8:30 AM - St. Luke
9:30- Sunday School (SL)
10:30 - St. Paul

Sunday, November 9th

8:30 AM - St. Luke
9:30 AM- Sunday School (SL)
10:30 AM- St. Paul

Sunday, November 16th

8:30 AM- St. Luke
9:30 AM- Sunday School (SL)
10:30 AM- St. Paul

Sunday, November 23rd- Christ the King

8:30 AM- St. Luke
9:30 AM- Sunday School (SL)
10:30 AM-Penryn

Sunday, November 30th

8:30 AM-Combined Service- St. Luke
Dedication of the Greens &
Children's Advent Pageant
9:30 AM- Sunday School (SL)

Sunday, December 7th

8:30 AM - St. Luke
9:30 AM- Sunday School (SL)
10:30 AM- St. Paul

Sunday, December 14th

8:30 AM- St. Luke
9:30- Sunday School (SL)
10:30- St. Paul

Sunday, December 21st

8:30 AM- St. Luke
9:30 AM- Sunday School (SL)
10:30 AM- St. Paul

Wednesday, December 24th**Christmas Eve**

6:30 PM- St. Paul
11:00 PM- St. Luke

Sunday, December 28th

8:30 AM- Combined Service- St. Luke
Lessons & Carols Service

Christmas Eve in Penryn: Join us for a traditional family service. Prelude at 6:30pm, followed by Holy Communion service beginning at 7:00pm

Christmas Eve at St. Luke, Schaefferstown: Join us for a traditional candlelight service. Prelude begins at 10:45pm followed by Holy Communion service at 11:00pm



From The Desk of JP: Joy, Wonder, and Warm Fuzzies



Can you believe we're about to step into the final two months of 2025?

Somehow we blinked, and “pumpkin everything” turned into talk of turkey dinners, Christmas tree decorating, and making wish lists for gift exchanges. Buckle up, friends—because the rest of 2025 is about to fly by, and I don't see a slowdown anywhere in sight!

Thanksgiving and Christmas have always been two of my favorite seasons. As I get older, I've learned to treasure them even more—the nostalgia, the traditions, and the little moments that warm the heart.

Whether it's watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, piling my plate high with mashed potatoes, decorating the tree with my parents, singing Silent Night by candlelight on Christmas Eve, or simply enjoying the company of friends and family—these moments bring me so much joy.

And speaking of joy—I am beyond excited for this year's Christmas Eve services! We'll have both an early service at 6:30pm at Penryn and a late-night service at 11 p.m. at St. Luke. (My first time ever planning a late service!).

Honestly, the joy you'll see radiating from me might look a little like a kid on Christmas morning tearing into a gift.

I also hope you've been enjoying the return of the choir this season—it has been such a blessing to work with them, and they've filled our sanctuary with such powerful praise.

You'll continue hearing their voices into the new year, and if you've ever thought about singing with us, consider this your invitation. Every voice is welcome!

As we move into the busyness of the holidays—moments that can be both exciting and, let's be honest, a little stressful—let's remember to lead with kindness, compassion, and love. Let's keep our ears open and our hands ready to help those who need it most.

And, as I reminded the kids back in September, let's keep looking for “hearts” in our daily lives—those little reminders that can give us the boost of joy and encouragement we need right when we need it most.

Here's to a holiday season filled with gratitude, wonder, and lots of warm fuzzies.



Music Ministry

Sr. Choir rehearsals are held in St. Luke's sanctuary
from 7:00-7:45pm
on the following Wednesdays:



November 12th
November 19th
December 3rd
December 10th
December 17th

Choir will be singing on the following Sundays:

November 2nd (All Saints)
November 23rd
November 30th-Combined Service

December 14th
December 24th- Both churches
December 28th-Combined service

Worship Assistants & Lay Readers

St. Luke Lay Reader:

Nov. 2	Andrea McAllister
Nov. 9	Linda Hollinger
Nov. 16	Sue DeLong
Nov. 23	Faith Thunberg
Nov. 30	Dedication of the Greens

Worship Assistant:

Nov. 2	Andrea McAllister	Karen Stump
Nov. 9	Linda Hollinger	Andrea McAllister
Nov. 16	Sue DeLong	Betsy Rights
Nov. 23	Faith Thunberg	Betsy Rights
Nov. 30	Dedication of the Greens	Karen Stump
Dec. 7	Anna Mae Grubb	Betsy Rights
Dec. 14	Donna Moyer	Karen Stump
Dec. 21	Steffi Gettler	Andrea McAllister
Dec. 24	TBD	Karen, Betsy, Andrea
Dec. 28	Andrea McAllister	Andrea McAllister

St. Paul Lectors:

Nov. 2	Chanda Galebach	Dec. 7	Anne Beegle
Nov. 9	Gil Welliver	Dec. 14	Alice Spencer
Nov. 16	Scott Reed	Dec. 21	Shelly Gochnauer
Nov. 23	Chanda Galebach	Dec. 24	Scott Reed
Nov. 30	At St. Luke	Dec. 28	At St. Luke

READERS NEEDED!

If you would like to help with the Lessons & Carols service on December 28th, please reach out to Pastor Angie.

Ministries

Women of the ELCA:

When: 2nd Monday every month at 7:00pm

Where: Miller Chapel

Bands Together

What: bands exercise class

When: Tues. & Thurs. 10-11 am

Where: Miller Chapel

Contact person: Sue Delong

St. Paul Family Ministry

What: Families meet once a month to have dinner and share in a ministry project.

When: Pastor Angie will reach out to families to create a schedule.

Penryn's Annual Free Thanksgiving Meal:

We're preparing for our annual free Thanksgiving meal giveaway through our food pantry, and we need your help!! What we need: turkeys (frozen-this could be vouchers or a money donation), instant potatoes, rice, stuffing,, gravy, cranberry sauce, canned veggies, a dessert, ½ gallon milk, ½ dozen eggs, Dinners should be enough food for a family of 4-6 people. Donations can be brought to church on Sunday, or during office hours. Donations needed by November 20th.

Advent Children's Pageant at St. Luke:

Join us on Sunday, November 30th for a fun and joyful First Sunday in Advent! We'll gather for one service at 8:30am for the traditional dedication of the greens, followed up by an Advent Children's Pageant. The story is about Jesus's genealogy called "This is Advent: Hope". Following the service, we'll enjoy a pancake breakfast fundraiser for the Iwambi Orphanage, sponsored by the WELCA group.



Education



Sunday School at St. Luke

Children's Class:

Led by Faith Thunberg & Richelle Deysher meets every Sunday at 9:30AM, in one of the classrooms on the upper level of the chapel.

Adult Class:

Led by Scott Rights, meets the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 9:30 AM in the lower level of the chapel.

Bible Study

Beer & Bible (Thursday 6:30pm)

November 20

December 18

The Franklin House Tavern

Thursday Morning ZOOM Bible Study at 10:00am

November 6, Luke 20: 27-38

November 20, Luke 23: 33-43

December 18, Matthew 1:18-25

The Penryn Food Pantry

The Penryn Food Pantry continues to be a place where we encounter Jesus every single week! From the regular folks who come in weekly, to the new users, we continue to discover (and re-discover) the importance of our small, but mighty church in Penryn. We're assisting families during difficult times, meeting people in life's transitions, we're building trusting relationships, and learning more about the root causes of food insecurity in our community. With your support, we can continue to grow and serve. Here's how you can help:

- Volunteer on a Saturday morning from 9am to noon
- Donate food, personal hygiene products, gift cards, paper products
- Help with our once to twice a month food delivery
- Pick up donations from Weis on a Friday afternoon

Thanks to the Lower Susquehanna Synod Hunger Committee, we were granted a \$2,000 grant in support of our ministry!

St. Luke Food Ministry

Thursday meals are served from 11:30 AM-1:00 PM, and are staffed by members of the six participating Heidelberg Township churches on an ongoing basis.

St. Luke's Sunday night meal program is not needs-based; the meal is open to any and all who are looking for a hot meal and community fellowship. The program operates under the umbrella of Lebanon County Christian Ministries, and we follow their rules and guidelines for ordering and handling of food and supplies. The meal is served from 5:30-6:30PM in the lower level of St. Luke chapel.

(If anyone is interested in volunteering for one of the Sunday meal teams or serving as a substitute, please contact Katie Kurtz or Elaine Matternas. Or, just come by and enjoy the meal and meet some of your community neighbors!

Don't Forget--- The 3-Chord Pickers, a local bluegrass band, will perform at the Sunday meals, November 9th and December 14th.



Birthdays/Anniversaries



St Paul Birthdays

St Luke Birthdays

November 3- Gary Landis
November 8- Jalandie Seppi
November 11- Veronica Schreiber
November 13- Andy Korzon
November 14- Elizabeth Ruhl
November 21- Jean Grossman
November 23- Rob Iosue
November 26- Bill Welliver
November 29- Sylvia Sugarman

December 3- Chase Roeting
December 6- Paul Subyak
December 11- Genevieve Snyder
December 18- Paul Shaffer
December 21- Carol Toburen

November 2- Bob Hetrick *
November 3- Alexa Weatherholtz
November 4- Laurie Zimmerman*
November 7- Betsy Nolt*
November 7- Susan Hettinger II*
November 8- George Leshner*
November 8- Rosemary Sanders*
November 11- Steffi Gettler
November 17- Logan Kimm
November 20-Snap Zimmerman*
November 20- Dean Hettinger II*
November 20-Jean Bucy*
November 21-Joe Edwards, Sr*
November 27- Nina Fisher*
November 27-Jonathan Bord
November 29-Lyndsey Bord
November 30- Kirk Pearson*



Anniversaries

November 16- Faith & Scott Thunberg (SL)
November 27- Rebecca & Heath Hentz (SL)

December 18- Jessica & Jonathan Bord (SL)
December 22- Lori & Kit Ahnert (SL)
December 2- Glenn & Jackie Bartsch (SP)
December 28- Gil & Carol Welliver (SP)

December 1- Jeffrey Halye II
December 4- Margaret Moore
December 10- Roger Bucy*
December 12- Mary Halye, II
December 17- Harry Sanders*
December 18- Paula Benson*
December 21-Scott Thunberg*
December 25-Janet Zerbe*
December 25-Matthew Deysher
December 26-Lori Ahnert
December 28-Deaid Davis*
December 30- Caitlyn Bord

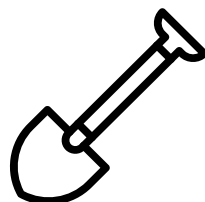
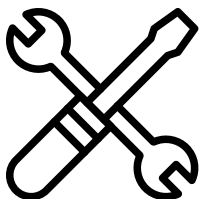
- Indicates "Golden Aged" members

Konde Diocese Support

KONDE DIOCESE: IWAMBI ORPHANAGE: BUILDING EFFORT

We are building a new dorm for the boys at Iwambi!

Join us for a pancake breakfast/free will donation at St. Luke after worship on Sunday, November 30th. All proceeds will be sent to Tanzania for the building project.





Lutheran World Relief
Ingathering and Dedication
1st Sunday in October, 2025



Quilters meet at St. Luke Lutheran Church under the leadership of Anna Mae Grubb on the second Wednesday of each month to sew the layers of each quilt together by hand. This year the quilters created 106 quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Thank you to Anna Mae Grubb, Sue Hettinger and Karen Stump for helping to put the quilts together each month. Thank you to Sandy Smith who makes most of the quilt tops and to Andrea McAllister, Carol Lebo and Karen who also make quilt tops. Sandy and Karen do all the binding. Anna Mae does everything from sewing together donated sheets for the quilt bottoms, to patching together pieces of batting to soften the layers and provide warmth and comfort, collecting fabric used in sewing the quilt tops, and keeping everything for this process organized.

Millie H. Benfer, a woman who makes draperies, donated bolts and boxes of quilting materials this past year. Anna Ruth Burkholder had provided us with fabric for quilt tops and sheets for the quilt backs for many years, and she is no longer doing this. If you have sheets which are in good condition to donate, or are a thrift store shopper and purchase sheets which you wish to donate, it would be greatly appreciated. Any size sheet, flat or fitted, will work. We also use flannel sheets, but polyester sheets cannot be used because they will stretch. Thank you, St. Luke Lutheran congregation for your donations to WELCA for the purchase of quilt batting and your donations to Lutheran World Relief to help cover the \$2.80 cost to ship each quilt.

On Friday, October 10th, and Saturday, October 11th, Sue DeLong coordinated the collection from 15 congregations in the Lebanon County Conference for Lutheran World Relief and secured the truck and driver to transport the quilts and kits. Thank you to the following people who lifted and carried 40 lb. boxes from curbs to truck on Friday and then from truck to an 18-wheeler on Saturday: Mike DeLong, Sue DeLong, Sharon Reber, Mike Reber, Judy Plummer, Roger Bucy, Karen Stump, Faith Thunberg, Lyndon Bennetch, Heidi Eck, Melanie Bennetch, Andrea McAllister and Scott Reed. They carried a total of 380 quilts, 529 Personal Care Kits, 12 Fabric Kits and 1,064 School Kits each day.

A special thank you to **Woodmasters Cabinetry, Jason Sheaves**, and their volunteer driver, Brad Manwiller. He drove from St. Luke, Schaefferstown to St. Marks, Annville to Salem Lutheran, Lebanon and then the next day to Bergstrasse, Ephrata. Members of Bergstrasse Evangelical Lutheran Church transported the boxes on Sunday to a Minnesota Lutheran World Relief warehouse to be distributed worldwide.

God's Work – Our Many Hands!
Blessings,
Anna Mae Grubb, Sue DeLong and Karen Stump



News and Events

Welcome our new members: We would like to welcome Heidi and Jeremy Eck into our St. Luke Community. They are both long-time residents in the Myerstown area. Heidi will be blessing us with her musical talent on November 23rd. We look forward to seeing you both, and sharing your gifts and talents with our community.

WELCOME!!!!!!

St. Luke Book Club

Book Club will be taking a break during the months of November and December. Information on the next book and meeting time will be shared in the bulletins and the January/February newsletter. Any questions, please contact Richelle Deyscher.

Christmas Poinsettias: Poinsettias will be ordered from Espenshade's Garden Center this year. The cost is \$7.00 each. Orders are due **November 2nd**, and will be picked up December 19th or 20th. If interested in ordering, please contact the church office, or Andrea McAllister.

All Saints Sunday- November 2nd: A time to remember these saints in our worship service at St. Luke: Sylvia Hoffman, Harold "Skip" Moore, Kenneth Fetter, Everett L "Tiny" Balmer, Michael Stuber, Roberta Fetter, Grace Sherk, Gary Simmers, Barbara Hehnly.

When emailing the St. Luke office: Please ensure that when sending an email to St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church, you use **office@stlukelutheran.org**, and/or update the contact's name. It has been several years since the part after the "@" was changed. Over time, our computers collect data, and we rarely verify its accuracy. Next time you send a correspondence to the **Administrative Assistant**, or whatever the name is that you may have saved in your "Contact", please check that the actual email address is correct. If unsure, the next time you receive an email from Andrea, add it as a "New contact" for future reference.

Church Council

It is time to start thinking about the 2026 church year and church Council. There is always room for new members and volunteers. St. Paul meetings are typically held the second Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM. St. Luke meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 6:30 PM. Being on Church Council is a great way to share some love, faith, and perspective to help the church grow in its ministry and service toward the community and each other.

Prayerfully consider joining your respective council. If you have questions, or would like to become a member, see a current council member.

News and Events Continued

Penryn Annual Meeting

Penryn's annual meeting will take place in December. Date TBD.

Advent Devotion Series

The Advent devotional series for this season is titled, ***Out of the Blue***. The scripture stories selected emerge from the tradition of the Jesse tree. The Jesse tree is a medieval symbolic depiction of Jesus' ancestry. It's also a symbol of the Advent season. The Bible stories are taken from the genealogy of Jesus as described in Matthew 1. These stories give us important clues about who Jesus will be. They testify to the consistency of God's promise within the messiness of human existence. Often, God's action seems to come out of the blue in these stories.

Join us in person:

St. Luke on Tuesday mornings in December (2,9,16,23) at 9:00am in the chapel.

Penryn on Thursday mornings in December (4,11,18) at 9:00am in the kitchen

If you would like to engage in your own weekly devotion at home, please let Pastor Angie know.

There is a guide that can be emailed for self-devotion.

Penryn's Annual Free Thanksgiving Meal: We're preparing for our annual free Thanksgiving meal giveaway through our food pantry, and we need your help!! What we need: turkeys (frozen-this could be vouchers or a money donation), instant potatoes, rice, stuffing,, gravy, cranberry sauce, canned veggies, a dessert, ½ gallon milk, ½ dozen eggs, Dinners should be enough food for a family of 4-6 people. Donations can be brought to church on Sunday, or during office hours. Donations needed by November 20th.

Advent Children's Pageant at St. Luke: Join us on Sunday, November 30th for a fun and joyful First Sunday in Advent! We'll gather for one service at 8:30am for the traditional dedication of the greens, followed up by an Advent Children's Pageant. The story is about Jesus's genealogy called "Six Surprising Tales from Jesus's Family Tree". Following the service, we'll enjoy a pancake breakfast fundraiser for the Iwambi Orphanage, sponsored by the WELCA group.

Invitation from WELCA: St. Luke Women of the ELCA is inviting EVERYONE to attend the St. James Players "The Christmas Doll" on Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 2:00pm. The theater is located at the Lebanon Valley Mall across from Mancino's. Tickets are \$15. There is a sign up sheet in the Chapel for anyone interested. Please sign up by November 9th so we can all sit together.

St. Luke History Books:

Available for \$20.00

Please contact the St. Luke church office or purchase in narthex

Camping News



The Lutheran Camping Corporation
of Central Pennsylvania
Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, & The Wittel Farm

Dinner Church **November 2, 2025** **5:00 pm-7:00 pm** **The Wittel Farm**

Join us for Dinner Church, a monthly worship gathering where we center around a shared meal.

Annual Quilt Auction **November 2, 2025** **2:00-4:00 pm** **Camp Nawakwa**

Come out to bid on handcrafted silent auction items, explore camp, enjoy a delicious meal, and bid on quilts that are donated by friends of the Lutheran Camping Corporation and made especially for this event. Silent auction starts at 2:00 and the live auction starts at 3:00.

Advent/Christmas in the Barn **December 21, 2025** **7:00-8:30 pm** **The Wittel Farm**

Join us for an intimate evening of scripture, hymns and songs, prayers and joyful music. We gather in the barn around a manger for this annual tradition, with candlelight, hot cocoa and cookies.

Winter Youth Retreat **January 2, 2026-January 4, 2026** **Kirchenwald**

Enjoy Kirchenwald in the Winter! Play broom hockey and other games on the frozen pond. Have fun sledding, playing snow soccer and other winter games. Creative Bible studies and worship experiences led by our summer camp counsellors are an important part of this retreat. (\$170)

Winter Fun Day **January 18, 2026** **1:00-5:00 pm** **Kirchenwald**

Bring your family or youth group and enjoy an afternoon on Kirchenwald's award-winning toboggan run, ice-skating on the lake or drinking hot chocolate in the lodge.

For more information: Phone: 717-677-8211 lcc@lutherancamping.org

Prayer Page

Prayer Circle: St. Luke and St. Paul work together as one to lift up the community in prayer. If you have need for prayer, please contact Betsy Nolt (St. Luke) or Shelly Gochenaur (St. Paul) with your prayer request and they will share it within the prayer circle composed of folks from both congregations. if you would like to be a part of the prayer circle, please let Pastor Angie know.

Please remember to pray for those*...
that are ill, recovering, or shut-in
who are serving in the military
The Vision to Mission Team

Congregations and ministries with whom we share mutual ministry: The congregations and pastors of the Heidelberg Ministerium and Lebanon Conference, Agape House, Lebanon Co. Christian Ministries, Women's Shelter, Lancaster/Lebanon Habitat for Humanity, Lebanon Rescue Mission, Support Connections of Lebanon County, St. Paul's Penryn, Penryn Food Bank, Our Bishops and their staff.

For pastoral care & emergencies, please contact either church office.

*Names are not listed above for the purpose of confidentiality.



Mission Statements

St Luke Mission Statement

As the Body of Christ we proclaim the Gospel by serving and doing God's will in a manner that meets the needs of our changing world.

St Paul Mission Statement

As a Reconciled in Christ Congregation, Saint Paul Lutheran Church, Penryn, welcomes ALL God's people, embracing differences of age, race, ethnicity, physical or mental abilities, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or economic status. We recognize that we are all children of God, whose differences are reconciled in Christ.

St. Luke Monthly Ministry Emphasis:

November: Lebanon Co. Food Bank (LCCM)

December: Habitat for Humanity

Thank you for your support!