

St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

November
2022

Our 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. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church

1432 Heidelberg Ave; PO Box 278
Schaefferstown, PA 17088
www.stlukelutheran.org
office@stlukelutheran.org

Together we are doing God's work with our hands:

Pastor

Rev. Angela Hammer

Minister of Music

(Organist/Sr. Choir Dir)

Linda Holt

Contemporary Worship Team

Linda Holt, Todd Snyder, and
Sarah Kneller

Second Sunday Musician:

David Deysher

Secretary and Bookkeeper

John C. Brewster

Treasurer/Financial Secretary

Michael DeLong/Richelle Deysher

Sextons:

Kit and Lori Ahnert

Live Streaming Assistant:

William Hoffman

Ministers:

All the people of St. Luke

Worship and Christian Education

Sunday, November 6—All Saints Sunday
8:30 AM Holy Communion
9:30 AM Sunday School (Children and Adults)
7:00 PM Taizé

Sunday, November 13
8:30 AM Service of the Word
9:30 AM Sunday School (Children)

Sunday, November 20
Christ the King/Thank-Offering Sunday
8:30 AM Holy Communion
9:30 AM Sunday School (Children and Adults)

Sunday, November 27—First Sunday in Advent
8:30 AM Contemporary Service
9:30 AM Sunday School (Children)

The service is livestreamed weekly on our Facebook page: at
<https://www.facebook.com/StLukeEvangelicalLutheran>,
or on YouTube using the following link:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWKROL7HVJEgtCMksioZwoA>.

If you do not have internet access, you are welcome to attend in person. Bulletins are emailed weekly.

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Birthdays and Events

Happy November Birthday to our "Golden Aged" members

November 3—Lurette Barkenstock
 November 4 - Laurie Zimmerman
 November 7 - Susan Hettinger, II
 November 7 - Betsy Nolt
 November 8 - George Leshner
 November 8 - RoseMary Sanders
 November 16 - Grace Sherk
 November 20 - Dean Hettinger, II
 November 20 - Clayton Zimmerman
 November 21 - Joe Edwards, Sr.
 November 27 - Nina Fisher
 November 28 - Dale Matthews
 November 30 - Kirk Pearson



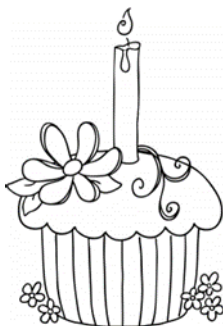
BAND TOGETHER

Bands exercise classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 AM-11 AM in the chapel. Social distancing is normal and masking as needed. Please contact Sue DeLong for additional information.

Band Together is a strength training program led by trained volunteers in churches and in other community locations. Participants get stronger, feel better, make some new friends and – most of all – have fun doing it.

Guess WHO will be One Hundred and TWO?

Grace Sherk will be celebrating her 102nd birthday on November 16th. Let's help her celebrate with a birthday card shower this month. She started attending Sunday School at St. Luke when she was 5 years old and has called St. Luke home ever since. Her address is: 5480 Marengo Ave, Apt 263. La Mesa, CA 91942.



Coffee Hour is held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday at 9:30 AM. Sign-up sheet in the narthex.



St. Luke History Books—Available for
\$20.00

Please contact Anna Mae Grubb:
 717-273-7035 or mrgrubby@comcast.net.

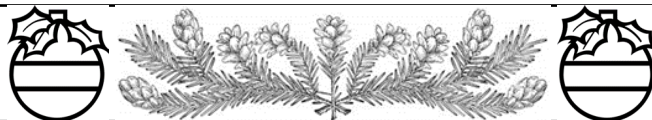
Book Club

Next meeting is on Thursday, November 3 in Miller Chapel at 7:00 PM. Discussion will be on *A Walk In The Woods* by Bill Bryson.

All are invited to come and join in the conversation. Please contact Richelle Deysher if you have any questions.



Christmas Story— The Women of the ELCA are sponsoring a Christmas event for everyone who is interested. Thursday, December 8th at 7:30 pm, the Lebanon Community Theater will be putting on the musical, *A Christmas Story*. There will be a sign-up sheets in the back of the church and in the chapel. The cost is \$20 per ticket for adults and \$15 for students. We hope you can attend!



Volunteers Needed: We are looking for volunteers to help with the Thursday free meals during the months of November & December. Time would be from 10:00 to 1:00. There are sign-up sheets located on the bulletin board inside the chapel. Please sign up for the dates you are able to help.

Worship – Arts – Offering

Upcoming Festival Services:

11/6—All Saints Sunday
 11/20—Christ the King /Thank-Offering Sunday
 12/24—Candlelight Service 11:00 PM
 12/25—Combined Service of Lessons and Carols
 at St. Paul Penryn 10:30 AM

Our worship attendance:

	In person	Online
10/2	37	unavailable
Taizé	10	37
10/9	34	27
10/16	36	44
10/23	35	31



Lay Readers and Worship Assistants for November:

	LR:	WA:
11/6	Dolly Fasnacht	Sue DeLong
11/13	Richelle Deysher	Mike DeLong
11/20	Sue DeLong	Donna Rhodes
11/27	Linda Holt	Paula Benson
12/4	Donna Moyer	Sue DeLong



Thank-Offering Sunday—November 20

Please bring your food items to place around the altar rail
 for our Harvest Home observance.
 All food donations will go to the Lebanon County Food Bank.

Musical Arts at St. Luke

If you are interested in becoming involved in the musical arts at St. Luke, please see Linda Holt. Reminder that choir rehearsals are held on Wednesday evening at 7:00.

All Saints Sunday—November 6.

We will remember
 these saints in our worship service.

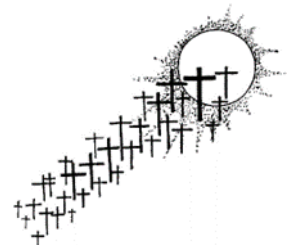
Dale R. Matthews
 Ruth M. Kupp
 Dorothy L. Zartman
 June M. Kohr
 Betty Leedy

Hymn Sing:

December 4
 7:00 PM.



Zion
 United Methodist Church,
 Schaefferstown



Many Thanks to all who are doing God's work!

Committees and Council
 Lay Readers
 Staff Members

Community Meal Volunteers
 Musicians
 Sunday School Teachers

Gardeners
 Quilters
 Worship Assistants

Mission, Ministry, and Events



Food Bank Sunday—Sunday, November 6

Please provide: Canned Vegetables, Spaghetti and Sauce, Pasta/Stuffing and Rice, Canned Fruits, Canned Soups, Peanut Butter and Jelly, Reusable Plastic Containers.

ANNUAL QUILT AUCTION—November 6 at Nawakwa

This fun-filled day of bidding raises money for the LCC Endowment Fund, which helps to financially sustain our fine ministry activities.

2:00 – Silent Auction of Handmade Craft Items 3:00 – Live Auction of Quilts / Dinner

WOMEN'S CRAFT RETREAT - November 11 - November 13, 2022 at Nawakwa—\$160

Try new techniques, share your latest creations, work on UFO's, and enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of camp in the fall. Worship led by Rev. Cindy Brommer. All meals provided. Please register by November 1.

ADVENT DAY—December 3 - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm—\$15

A day of Bible study, worship, and prayerful reflection as we seek to prepare for the coming of the Christ. Registration fee includes lunch.

For more information on any of these events: Phone: 717-677-8211

Email: lcc@lutherancamping.org



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

Lebanon County Christian Ministries — 2022 Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction

LCCM annual Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction will be held on Thursday, Nov. 17, 2022 at Lebanon Area Evangelical Free Church, 600 Shepherd St., Jonestown. Come enjoy fellowship, bid on auction items, eat a delicious home cooked meal provided by Country Home Catering, and listen to Alyssa Mayersky. Visit <https://www.lccm.us> for more information and to purchase tickets. We hope to see you there!

Ministry Emphasis for November

Lebanon County Food Bank

Thank you for your support!



Christian Education for Adults and Children

Children's Class:

Led by Faith Thunberg,
Richelle Deysher, & Sarah Kneller and meets every
Sunday at 9:30.

Adult Class:

Led by Scott Rights and meets the 1st, 3rd, & 5th



Bible Study Opportunities

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY ON ZOOM: Meet online with Pastor Angie to take a look at the texts coming up for the Sunday lectionary. A ZOOM link will be emailed out the week of each study. Contact the church office to be added to the email invitation. We meet at 10:00 AM (except 12/15 @ 9:00am) on these dates:

November 10: Luke 21:5-19

November 17: Luke 23:33-43

December 1: Matthew 3:1-12

December 15: Matthew 1:18-25

BEER & BIBLE: meets once a month at a local pub. If you have not participated in this social gathering/text study, give it a try. We meet for dinner, drinks, and conversation at 6:30 PM. Upcoming dates are November 17 and December 15. Locations—TBD.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY: Our Advent study for this year is called *GROUNDED: A Coffee Themed Devotional Journey Through Advent*. The study is “grounded” in James 5:7-10, encouraging our patience as we wait for the Lord. We will meet every Sunday during Advent after worship in the kitchen area.

James 5:7-10 “Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.”

This Advent resource comes with four different bags of Guatemalan coffee to enjoy while we pray and reflect together. Proceeds from the purchase of the resource 100% support the Tree4Hope school in Guatemala, a ministry of the Lower Susquehanna Synod. Though we will meet weekly, the resource offers daily prayer and reflections offering opportunities for a deeper connection with God during this time of waiting. If you would like a copy of the resource, please let Pastor Angie know.

Lutheran World Relief Quilts—Ingathering for 1st Sunday in October 2022

Ingathering Thanks 2022! Thank you to Sue Hettinger who helps to lay the quilts together each month. Thank you to Carol Lebo who has joined us in sewing quilt tops. Thank you to Sandy Smith who sews tops and does all the binding of the quilts. Thank you to the ladies of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Lebanon and those at St. Luke who come to knot the quilts together the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Anna Ruth Burkholder has given us cut squares. We thank you for your years of partnership in this project. We are also grateful for your continued donations of sheets, mattress pads, blankets, material, crochet yarn and batting that is purchased. The cost of the batting has gone from \$60 to \$120 for a roll. We get 18-20 quilts from one roll. If you are willing to make a donation, it would be appreciated. WELCA pays for the batting. There is now a tracking system. St. Luke quilts have gone to Haiti, Ukraine, Mali, Bolivia, United States and 12 other countries this past year. In 2021, LWR sent out over 122,400 quilts. Thank you for your contributions to LWR which helps to pay the cost of \$2.25 for the shipping of each quilt. The ladies made 90 quilts this year.

Thank you to Sue DeLong for arranging the packing, carrying, and collection from 14 area churches. Helpers included Paula Benson, Paul DeLong, Mike DeLong, Dave & Richelle Deysher, Anna Mae Grubb, Mike & Sharon Reber, Sandy Smith, and Jake & Judy Werner. Together, we moved boxes containing 331 quilts, 941 personal care kits, 21 fabric kits, and 977 school kits. A special thank you to Plain and Fancy who continue to generously allocate the usage of a truck and drivers Bryon Hehnly and Kim & Will Haverstick. They drive to St. James Lutheran, Lebanon and St. Marks Lutheran, Annville so we can load the quilts and kits. The next day they drive to Bergstrasse Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ephrata. Other people take over from there to deliver the boxes to New Windsor MD Lutheran World Relief warehouse.

God's Work - Our **Many** Hands!

Blessings, Anna Mae Grubb



**God's work.
Our hands.**

Footnote:

Women of the ELCA give the baby quilts for baptisms. We thank Carol Lebo who continues to make these quilts as needed.

In November the Lutheran Camping Co. has an auction. The past several years one of our quilts was donated for the auction. A quilt came in this year which was donated.

From our Pastor:

2 Corinthians 4:14-16

“Indeed, everything is for your sake, so that grace, when it has extended to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. So, we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day.”

Empty pews. I’m thinking about empty pews.

I will admit that some Sundays the empty pews have me lose heart. The world is such a devastatingly hurtful, stressful, anxiety filled place of existence. For me, the church is a place of respite from the brokenness of life. There is an old saying (and I’m not sure who to credit to this to), **“The church is not a museum of saints, but a hospital for sinners.”** Given the state of the world, I sometimes wonder why the church pews are not filled more. Sometimes it makes me lose heart.

I will also admit that I do not live in that “negative” space exceptionally long. In Paul’s letter to the Romans, there is a verse that I resonate with that helps with my change of heart. Paul writes; **“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”** (Romans 12:12)

In the empty space, something is happening. God is at work. In the empty pews there is something new being created. Something that we can not see yet. Something not quite visualized or hoped for – But God is at work. I know this. I believe this. God wastes nothing. In the emptiness God is creating.

Our time of Advent is drawing near. A time for patiently waiting. A time for discernment and deep spiritual reflection and renewal. Advent is also a time of extreme darkness. In that darkness we can feel anxious and uncertain. The darkness can feel like an empty void. But God is creating something new in that dark, empty space. We anticipate the light to dawn, for our Messiah to be born and dwell among us and give to us all that we long for and need.

In the empty space we wait.

Do not lose heart.

God promises to show up.

(article continued on next page)

Some Sundays after church I am told how the message spoke directly to someone, as if I can somehow see and understand this internal struggle. Though that makes me feel good, in all truth, it's not me. It's Holy Spirit. God knows you better than you know yourself. God knows what you need. God is at work in those empty places inside of you. When you come to worship on Sunday, regardless of if you are tired, feeling not like yourself, or have 598 things to do that day – sitting your tired and beat-down self in one of those empty pews – I promise you, God will meet you there. Maybe God meets you in a hymn, a text, in the confession, at the Table, in the passing of the peace...God will surprise you in the most beautiful and profound ways.

But you need to show up – literally and figuratively. Be present. Communicate with God. God's grace reminds us that we are constantly being made new, that God is continually at work in our lives.

The empty pews remind me that we are waiting for the one who is yet to come. The empty pews remind me that God is at work – that something new is being created and that we need to remain patient and not lose heart.

**In Christ's Service,
Pastor Angie**



*IN
Everything
GIVE
Thanks*

