

St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

January
2023

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, January 1—Lessons and Carols
10:30 AM Joint Worship with St. Paul Penryn

Sunday, January 8—Baptism of Our Lord
8:30 AM Holy Communion
9:30 AM Sunday School (Children)
9:30 AM Congregational Meeting 1

Sunday, January 15—Epiphany 2
8:30 AM Holy Communion
9:30 AM Sunday School (Children and Adults)

Sunday, January 22—Epiphany 3
8:30 AM Contemporary Service of the Word
9:30 AM Sunday School (Children)

Sunday, January 29—Epiphany 4
8:30 AM Service of the Word
9:30 AM Congregational Meeting 2



Inside this newsletter:

Page 1	Staff and Worship & Christian Ed Calendar
Page 2	From our Pastor
Page 3	Worship / Arts / Christian Education
Page 4	Birthdays and Events
Page 5	Mission / Ministry / Synod Events
Page 6	Prayer Page
Page 7	Finances
Page 8	Calendar
Back page	Prayer Ventures

From our Pastor:

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” Jeremiah 29:11

I think when a new year begins, we say things like “Wow! Where did this year go?”. Or maybe something like, “I’m ready for this new beginning!” We sometimes are eager and more than ready to say goodbye to the past year, and with a newfound enthusiasm and energy are ready to greet the new year. It’s a clean slate. A new beginning. The past is the past.

So, what will be different for you once January 1, 2023 rolls around? What changes are you committed to making? How will your life be different? What plans do you have to better your life, your community? Maybe you’re going into 2023 with high goals and expectations. Maybe you’re rolling into the new year with anxiety and fear, taking one day at a time.

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” Jeremiah 29:11

Jeremiah 29:11 has nothing to do with any person living today. This verse applied only to the Jews who were in exile in Babylon during the sixth century BC. However, the sentiment expressed is so beautiful and encouraging, I think that there is meaning and practical use for us today.

This verse reflects God’s grace and affections for those whom God loves. Because of the unchanging nature of God, God had promised to bring Israel back; therefore, the exiles could be assured that they had a future and a hope. Likewise, God has promised those who are in Christ, our sins are forgiven, and we stand before God justified. God has plans for those in Christ, and those plans are good.

We, as disciples, have plans for the church, plans for the future. We work towards those plans in faith that Christ is working within and around us, leading us, guiding us in our actions. We won’t always get it right. We will fall short. We may disappoint each other, even ourselves along the way, but the promise of the Christ child is this: Emmanuel. God with us.

In Christ, we can be confident that all things will work together for our good and that God has a future planned for us. We have hope that **“does not put us to shame”** (Romans 5:5). We have been given promises to rely on, just as Israel was.

None of us know what will happen this year. No matter if we experience profound joy or grief, no matter if we meet our goals or fall short, no matter our level of excitement or dread, God has a plan for you. Plans that hold your wellbeing in a sacred and loved space. No matter how you enter this new year, know with confidence that God is with you.

“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” Jeremiah 29:11

**In Christ’s Service,
Pastor Angie +**

Worship, Arts, and Christian Education

Our worship attendance:

	In person	Online
11/27	32	51
12/4	42	21
12/11	31	16
Taizé	13	24
12/18	32	unavailable

Congregational Meetings:

Sunday, January 8 at 9:30:
Special Meeting for purpose of
Council nominations and
election of new council members.

Sunday, January 29 at 9:30:
Annual Congregational Meeting

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 on these days:

January 5 @ 10:00am: Matthew 3:13-17 January 19 @ 10:00am: Matthew 4:12-23

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. Join us on January 19 at the Blue Bird Inn.

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 PM.

Sunday School at St. Luke

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 Sundays at 9:30.



Combined Service

January 1, 2023—10:30 AM

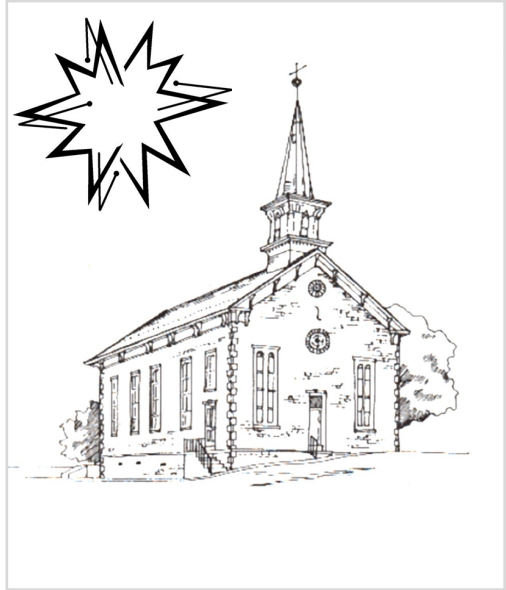
We welcome St. Paul Penryn to St. Luke for a combined service of Lessons and Carols. A time of fellowship will follow the service.

Please come and meet our neighbors
in Christ from St. Paul!

Birthdays and Events

Happy Birthday to our
"Golden Aged" members this month

January 8 - Michael Reber
January 13 - Carol Lebo
January 13 - Sharon Reber
January 20 - Carl Bakke
January 20 - Diane Kurtz
January 21 - Richard Lee Leshner
January 21 - Beverly Zartman
January 27 - Tresia Matthews



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.

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



Book Club

Next meeting is on Thursday January 26 in Miller Chapel at 7:00 PM. Discussion will be on Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker by: Jennifer Chiaverini. All are invited to come and join in the conversation. Please contact Richelle Deysher if you have any questions.



St. Luke History Books

Available for \$20.00

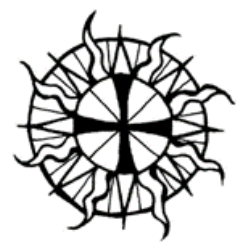
Please contact Anna Mae Grubb:
717-273-7035 or mrgrubby@comcast.net

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

Committees and Council

Community Meal Volunteers
Gardeners Lay Readers
Musicians Quilters Staff Members
Acolytes Sunday School Teachers
Worship Assistants
All of our St. Luke Family

Friday, January 6 - The Feast of Epiphany ("manifestation") concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God's glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God's love to all people.



Mission and Ministry



For our Food Bank:

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



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

WINTER YOUTH RETREAT—at Kirchenwald—January 6 - January 8, 2023—\$150
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 counselors are an important part of this retreat. Meet new friends and catch up with your summer camp friends. Other indoor and outdoor activities may be included, as the weather dictates. For youth in grades 3 through 9.

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

Events in our Synod

Spiritual Wisdom of the Enneagram Introductory Online Workshop

January 10, 2023, 7:00 PM

The Enneagram is a tool for deeper discovery and growth in our relationships with Jesus and others. In this 90-minute introductory workshop, Deacon Marsha Roscoe leads us in an exploration of how our God-given design orients our hearts' desires and actions. Together, we will grow in awareness of our belovedness and our call to reflect God's image in all of our relationships. This is an online Zoom event.

Icons in Transformation

Running through January 29, 2023

Art exhibit featuring a collection of contemporary religious works by an international artist with Ukrainian-roots, Ludmila Pawlowska. Lutheran Church, 43 South Church Street, Waynesboro, PA.

Ministry Emphasis for January: William Miller Scholarship Fund

Thank you for your support!