

St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

February
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
717-949-3375

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, February 5—Epiphany 5

8:30 AM Holy Communion

9:30 AM Sunday School (Children and Adults)

Sunday, February 12—Epiphany 6

8:30 AM Service of the Word

Council Installation

9:30 AM Sunday School (Children)

Sunday, February 19—Transfiguration of our Lord

8:30 AM Holy Communion

9:30 AM Sunday School (Children and Adults)

Wednesday, February 22—Ash Wednesday

7:00 PM Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

Sunday, February 26—Lent 1

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: www.youtube.com/@stlukeschaefferstownpa

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

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From our Pastor:

“For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain.” – Philippians 1:21

I’ve been asking myself this question; what do we gain from loss? The month of January has been emotionally and spiritually draining. A fatal car accident yielded the tragic loss of a young and newly ordained deacon in our synod. Quick and aggressive cancer has claimed the life of a colleague’s spouse, a young man and father to twin boys only 18 months old. The loss of these people, the grief these families and congregations must endure is unfathomable and painful. So, I ask, what do we gain from loss?

The Apostle Paul was sensing that his life was nearing the end, giving him time and cause to contemplate death. He had come to the awareness that he felt not only ready to die but eager, knowing that dying meant a much fuller experience of the presence of God, coupled with an end to his constant trials and sufferings. He had no doubts at all about the nature of eternal life, and his faith.

Paul’s letters to the various Christian communities throughout the New Testament teach us the importance and necessity of community. Through pain and suffering, loss and tragedy, God’s presence and love is felt and experienced within community. Paul writes; **“For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain.”** – Philippians 1:21. I think Paul is teaching us, through his experiences, that living with and for others is to live as Christ. To be so emotionally and intimately bound to other human beings, to feel their pain and suffering, to grieve alongside the community is Christ-like. When we live and love as Christ did, we experience pain deeply, yet in death we experience unimaginable joy.

What do we gain from loss? We gain closeness to Christ, as we long for healing and comfort. We gain a sense of self worth and value as we accompany others in whatever life situation our friends and family and the community find themselves. We gain a deeper level of human connection when we let people love us. We experience Christ in, with, and among us.

As we approach Lent, consider the question I have been wrestling with; what do we gain from loss? As Jesus enters into the 40 days of temptation, scarcity, self-doubt, he does this for you. He claims you – all of you – your pain and sorrow, grief too painful to name, your sin and shame – he loses his human life, so you gain eternal life in God’s kingdom.

What do we gain from loss?

God’s peace. God’s comfort. God’s promise that we are not alone.

Live like Christ. Love like Christ. We have everything to gain.

In Christ’s Service,
Pastor Angie +

Worship and Arts

February 22—Ash Wednesday—7:00 PM at St. Luke
Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

Lay Readers for February:

2/5 Richelle Deysher
2/12 Faith Thunberg
2/19 Elaine Matternas
2/22 (Ash Wed) Richelle Deysher
2/26 Linda Holt
February Worship Assistant: Donna Rhodes

Our worship attendance:

	In person	Online
1/1	50	42
1/8	33	36
1/15	35	36
1/22	37	37

Community Maundy Thursday Service

April 6, 2023 Schaefferstown Mennonite High School
“The One Story”—7:00 PM



Heidelberg Community
Wednesday Evening Soup and
Bread Suppers followed by worship
6:00 PM Meal 7:00 PM Service

March 1—St. Paul’s UCC
Pastor: Rev. Angela Hammer
from St. Luke Lutheran Church

March 8—Zion United Methodist
Pastor: Rev. David Martin
from Krall’s Mennonite Church

March 15—Krall’s Mennonite Church
Pastor: Rev. Tom Kinter
from Zion United Methodist Church

March 22—St. Luke Lutheran Church
Pastor: Rev. David Martin
from Krall’s Mennonite Church

March 29—Trinity UMC Kleinfeltersville
Pastor: Rev. Walter Heisey
from Heidelberg Church of the Brethren

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.

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



Birthdays and Events

Happy Birthday to our
“Golden Aged” members this month

February 1 - Lorraine Krall
February 11 - Doris Moore
February 12 - Donna Moyer
February 12 - Harold (Tom) Nolt
February 15 - Dr. Jim Christman
February 21 - Marylouise Sholly
February 21 - Harold Moore, Jr.
February 22 - Jean Foelker
February 26 - Joan Miller



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.

Coffee Hour

Book Club

Next meeting of the book club will be announced in an upcoming bulletin and posted online. 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 mrgrubby@comcast.net

Upcoming WELCA meetings

7:00 PM in the Chapel

Monday, Feb. 13 and Monday, April 10



February
5th

Remember to bring your cans of soup to church on Sunday, February 5th.

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 Sundays at 9:30.



Sunday School
MAKES A DIFFERENCE

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. Join us at 10:00 AM on February 2 (Matthew 5:13-20) and 16 (Matthew 17:1-9).

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. Join us on February 16 at 6:30 PM. Location to be announced.

Mission and Ministry



Food Bank Donations

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

Ministry Emphasis for February

St. Luke Family Assistance Discretionary Fund.

Thank you for your support!