

St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

September
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

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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:

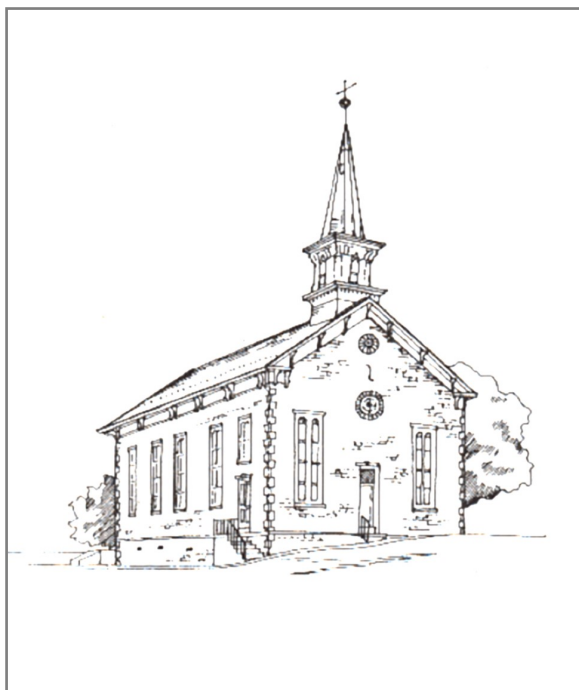
Kit and Lori Ahnert

Live Streaming:

William and Beverly Hoffman

Ministers:

All the people of St. Luke



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From our Pastor:

Wait and Listen

This summer I read through the books of the prophets in the Old Testament. I found that I resonated with one of the lesser-known prophets, Habakkuk. Habakkuk gives voice to our bewilderment, articulates our puzzled attempts to make sense of things, faces God with our disappointments. He laments (and I'm paraphrasing here), **"God, you don't seem to make any sense!"** But he does something more important than being a voice for human confusion; he waits, and he listens. It is in his waiting and listening – which then turn into his praying – that Habakkuk finds himself realizing that the believing-in-God life, the steady trusting-in-God life is full of life. Habakkuk starts out exactly where we start out with our puzzled complaints and bewilderment – but he does not stay there. He ends up in a world along with us where **"We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."** – Romans 8:28

Waiting and listening are two very difficult things to do. I did a lot of both of those things during my time apart this summer. What I found was that I was constantly amazed at how God made Godself known to me in the most beautiful and unsuspecting ways (not like that is a big surprise – but sometimes we get so entrenched in the muck of life that we just don't see God in and among us). I was reminded (and renewed in some ways) through patient waiting and listening that being bewildered, puzzled over God's seemingly (at times) absence or indifference to our pain and struggles, that God IS present, and God IS doing a new thing. Through persistent prayer and conversation with God, our reality of a believing-in-God life is a full life.

So, I say all of this because we are a community of faithful people – but none of us are immune to times of doubt, frustration, fear, uncertainty. We struggle as individuals and as a community. We worry about everything - our health, the state of the church, our kids, our parents – we worry about the reality of the unknown future. As God's beloved, we are called to a life of faith. Though we are not exempt from the harshness of life, we are promised a God who meets us in the muckiness of things and loves us unconditionally.

"Living by faith is a bewildering venture. We rarely know what's coming next, and not that many things turn out the way we anticipate. It is not unreasonable to assume that since I am God's chosen and beloved, I will get favorable treatment from the God who favors me so extravagantly. It is natural to expect that from the time that I became his follower, I will be exempt from dead ends, muddy detours, and cruel treatment from the travelers I meet daily who are walking in the other direction. That God followers don't get preferential treatment in life always comes a surprise. But it's also a surprise to find that there a few men and women within the Bible who show up alongside us at such moments" – On the Prophet Habakkuk, by Eugene H. Peterson

I think the prophet's message is simple and true for all of us: Wait and listen.

In Christ's Service, Pastor Angie +

Worship Calendar and Volunteers

Sunday Worship and Christian Education

September 3—Pentecost 14
8:30 AM Holy Communion

September 10—Pentecost 15
8:30 AM Service of the Word
“God’s Work, Our Hand’s”
9:30 AM Sunday School (children)

September 17—Pentecost 16
8:30 AM Holy Communion
9:30 Sunday School (Children and Adults)

September 24—Pentecost 17
8:30 AM —Contemporary Service of the Word
9:30 Sunday School (Children)

October 1—Pentecost 18
8:30 AM Holy Communion
9:30 Sunday School (Children and Adults)

Lay Readers for September:

9/3 Dolly Fasnacht
9/10—Richelle Deysher
9/17—Donna Moyer
9/24 Steffi Gettler

Worship Assistant Schedule:

September: Sue Delong
October: Donna Rhodes



Join us in person or online: The service is livestreamed weekly:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StLukeEvangelicalLutheran>

YouTube: www.youtube.com/@stlukeschaefferstownpa. Bulletins are emails weekly.

Worship attendance - July :

	In person	Online
7/2	37	61
7/ 9	86	48 (combined)
7/16	n/a	at St. Paul
7/23	48	49 (combined)
7/30	n/a	at St. Paul

Worship attendance—August:

	In person	Online
8/6	54	53 (combined)
8/13	49	combined at St. Paul
8/20	52	(combined)

Birthdays and Events

Happy Birthday to our "Golden Aged" members for September:

Delores Leshner 9/7

Todd Snyder 9/8

Linda Simmers 9/17

Nancy Flory 9/23

Robert Enck 9/25

Dolores Fasnacht 9/28



Book Club

The Book Club will be meeting on Thursday, September 21st at 7:00 PM in the Chapel. Discussion will be on *Small Mercies* by Dennis Lehane. All are welcome to join us for a great discussion.

The Fall Kauffman's chicken barbeque for Friends of Spang Crest is being held on Friday, September 1, 2023 from 2:30-6:00. The price is \$10.00 for half chicken, baked potato, applesauce, roll and butter. Baked goods will be available for sale.



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



BAND TOGETHER

Bands exercise classes are held every Tuesday and Thursday from 10 AM-11 AM in the chapel. Please contact Sue DeLong for additional information.



Lift your voices in song!

Choir Rehearsals resume on Wednesday, September 6

at 7:00 PM. See Minister of Music Linda Holt for more information.



Congregation Beth Israel Annual Lecture Series

Presents a lecture by Shelby Van Pelt, author of Remarkably Bright Creatures, the 2023 Lebanon County Reads selection. The lecture will be held on Tuesday, September 12 at 8:00 PM. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased at any Lebanon County Library. If anyone is interested in attending and would like to purchase a ticket please contact Richelle Deysher.

Five Loaves 5K and Fun Walk

Run or Walk with LCCM on Saturday, September 9 at 8 AM—South Hills Park \$30/person. The link to sign up. <https://www.lccm.us/five-loaves-5k.html>

We are asking you to consider signing up as a TEAM to help raise funds for the food bank.

Christian Education for Adults and Children



**Sunday School
MAKES A DIFFERENCE**

Sunday, September 10th resumes
Sunday School at 9:30 AM.

Children's Class: Will be led by Faith Thunberg, Richelle Deysner, & Sarah Kneller and will meet every Sunday.

Adult Class: Will be led by Scott Rights and will meet the 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sundays each month.



Bible Study Opportunities

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY ON ZOOM: Meet at 10:00 AM 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. Upcoming dates are: September 14 & 28.

BEER & BIBLE: A monthly meeting 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 date is September 21. Location TBD

NEW - Saturday morning theology and text study. This will be a combined time of learning and discussion with members of the Penryn congregation. We will meet the first Saturday of the month, rotating our meeting location and our topics of discussion. Join us **Saturday, September 9 at 9:00am at St. Luke.** Our topic this session will be "Why Confession is Important".

Bring a breakfast snack to share.

Coffee and drinks will be provided.



It has been 10 years since the ELCA introduced “God’s Work – Our Hands” on the second Sunday in September to encourage congregations to focus on outreach in the communities we serve. For nine of those ten years here at St. Luke, we have used that Sunday to kick off our annual **Diaper Drive** and **Warmth for Winter**.

So, mark your calendar for **September 10th**, and stock up on some packages of diapers to bring to church that Sunday. These will be distributed through Lebanon County Christian Ministries. **God’s Work Our Hands** Sunday also marks the kickoff of our **Warmth for Winter** program to provide clothing, blankets, etc. where needed in the community. Details to follow as we gather information in the fall season. If you know of a family in need of extra warmth this winter, please provide their contact information to the church office.

PS—do not forget to wear your **God’s Work Our Hands** T-shirt on **September 10**.

Warmth for winter and warmth from the heart.

Thank you for your support and for helping to do God’s Work with Your Hands!



Food Bank Ministry and Thank you notes



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 September: Domestic Violence Shelter

Thank you for all that are doing God's work!

Committees and Council

Community Meal Volunteers

Gardeners

Lay Readers

Musicians

Quilters

Staff Members

Sunday School Teachers

Worship Assistants

All of our St. Luke Family

A notes of Thanks: Dear friends: I will never forget Sunday, June 18. It was the first Sunday I attended after a 3 year hiatus due to covid and followed by Leon's illness. I was greeted with open arms and hearts and then presented with a lovely bouquet of carnations that graced the altar that morning. They were provided by Sue and Dean Hettinger. Thank you goes out to our church family and I think Leon is smiling upon us from his heavenly home. Thank you also for the cards, words of condolence, and prayers. I also wish to thank Anna Mae Grubb and Sharon Reber for their visit and for the sympathy cards, one of which included a generous gift card given by St. Luke. Many thanks to all and thanks be to God for his many gifts bestowed upon us. Bonnie Boyer.

Camping Events



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

Campfire Worship at The Wittel Farm: Sunday September 24—7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Capture the Flag Spectacular: Sunday, October 1—3:00-5:30 PM at Kirchenwald

Review your camp map, paint your face, and practice your cone zone celebration dance. Invite your friends and family (parents, too) to join you in this CTF summer reunion event. Play alongside familiar faces from your week at camp, plus campers from every other week of the summer. Campfire worship to follow.

Adult Study Retreat: October 3-5 at Nawakwa \$170—All meals (7) are included in the price and served at the Dining Hall. This mid-week retreat begins Tuesday morning and ends with lunch on Thursday. Lodging in Zinn-Tozer Lodge. Books for discussion are *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* – Helen Simonson and *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* – Rachel Joyce.

For more information on these events visit: www.lutherancamping.org or call 717-677-8211

PARTY WITH A PURPOSE!

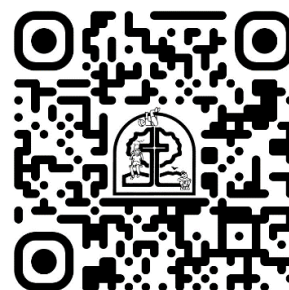
Saturday, Sept 30 from 5:00-8:00 PM at Camp Kirchenwald

Come join us for an evening out at Kirchenwald! Enjoy dinner and live entertainment plus silent and live auctions as well as giveaways. The evening is free, all we ask is a donation at the end of the night in the amount of your choice. This year's focus is a fleet of new mountain bikes! Thanks to the Elizabethtown Mountain Bike Team, camp has great new trails on which to ride, but our aged and well used bikes are not up to the challenge. Help us get kids on bikes to enjoy the new trails! Questions? Call 717-677-8211.

This is an adult event.

Childcare is provided, please let us know if you would like to utilize this service.

Scan this QR code to register for the event.



Can't attend but would still like to donate?

Scan this QR code to contribute to the fundraiser.





LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Ingathering Appeal: October 6 and 7.

How can you help:

- A. There are envelopes on the cabinet at the back of the sanctuary for donations.
- B. On Friday, October 6 we will meet at St. Luke at noon and return by 2:30 PM. Volunteers are needed to load boxes from Salem Lutheran and St. Mark churches.
- C. On Saturday, October 7 at 7:15 AM, volunteers are needed to unload boxes at Bergstrasse Evangelical Lutheran Church, Ephrata. Breakfast follows.

The quilts will be on display in the sanctuary on October 1.

Your contribution to L.W.R. helps to pay for the shipping of the quilts at \$2.25 each.

Please contact Anna Mae Grubb or Sue Delong with any questions.



July Financial Summary

July 2023 Finances

	Actual 2023	Budget 2023	Actual 2022
	Income	YTD	YTD
Income			
General Plate Offering (Worship/SS)	\$ 5,910.00	\$ 56,655.25	\$ 56,589.25
¹ Trust & Assets Account	\$ 22,251.94	\$ 60,595.71	\$ 30,610.38
² Other Income	\$	\$ 1,496.05	\$ 1,094.51
³ Restricted Fund Plate Offering	\$ 65.00	\$ 900.00	\$ 915.00
⁴ Non-Budget Benevolence	\$ 90.00	\$ 1,680.00	\$ 6,477.00
Bequests, Memorials, Spec. Appeals	\$ 100.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 455.00
Total Income	\$ 28,416.94	\$ 121,577.01	\$ 96,141.14
⁵ Operating Expenses	\$ 7,700.10	\$ 68,129.83	\$ 51,401.70
⁶ Benevolence Expenses	\$ 1,125.00	\$ 16,663.39	\$ 19,721.23
Total Expenses	\$ 8,825.10	\$ 84,793.22	\$ 71,122.93
Surplus (Deficit) [Inc less Exp]	\$ 19,591.84	\$ 36,783.79	\$ 25,018.21
1. Trusts & Assets includes income from Spitler, Lauser, Binner, Matthews & Thrivent Accounts			
2. Other Income includes Building Repair, Building Use Donation, Memorial Donation, Misc.			
3. Restricted Fund includes Wm. Miller Scholarship, Building Fund, Campership, Library & Organ Fund			
4. Non-Budget Benevolence includes World Hunger, Spang Crest, Leb. Co. Christian Min., Etc.			
5. Operating Expenses include Buildings, Salaries and other Operating Expenses			
6. Benevolence Expenses include Synod, Charities and Individuals			