

# St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

November  
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:

William and Beverly Hoffman

#### Ministers:

All the people of St. Luke

## Worship and Christian Education

Sunday, November 5 - All Saints Sunday  
8:30 AM Holy Communion  
9:30 AM Sunday School (Children and Adults)

Sunday, November 12 - Pentecost 24  
8:30 AM Service of the Word  
9:30 AM Sunday School (Children)

Sunday, November 19 - Pentecost 25 Thank-Offering  
8:30 AM Holy Communion  
9:30 AM Sunday School (Children and Adults)

Sunday, November 26 - Christ the King  
8:30 AM Contemporary Service  
9:30 AM Sunday School (Children)

### Join us in person or online:

The service is livestreamed weekly:

Facebook: [https://www.facebook.com/  
StLukeEvangelicalLutheran](https://www.facebook.com/StLukeEvangelicalLutheran)

YouTube: [www.youtube.com/  
@stlukeschaefferstownpa](http://www.youtube.com/@stlukeschaefferstownpa).

Bulletins are emailed weekly.

### Inside the newsletter:

Page 1 Staff and Worship & Christian Ed Calendar

Page 2 From Our Pastor

Page 3 Birthdays and Events

Page 4 Worship / Arts / Volunteers

Page 5 Mission / Ministry / Events

Page 6 Christian Education/Bible Studies

Page 7 Lutheran World Relief—Ingathering

Page 8 Prayer Page

Page 9 Financial Report

Page 10 Calendar

Back page —Prayer Ventures

## *From our Pastor*

**“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are.” - 1 John 3:1**

My favorite part of the day is in the early morning before anyone in my family is awake and it's just me and our dog, Jojo, outside walking around in the field behind our house. The air is cold and crisp. The fog hovers over the grass. The sky is that perfect mix of brilliant orange and purple. The other morning, I felt overwhelmed with the magnificent beauty of it all. Immediately, my mind started to think about how quickly the colors of the sky would change, how the temperature would begin to rise, and how the fog would lift. Then I began having some of those existential questions that I think we all ask from time to time: What am I REALLY doing here? How is it that I am part of this beautifully rich world? How can there be so much calm and beauty in one moment, and the next be filled with pain and grief? Who am I? What does it all “mean? Yes – all of this flooded my mind before 6:00am on a chilly October morning, standing in a field wearing my pajamas. And, as I leave that moment in the field, I begin my day. And like you, we never know what the day will bring.

Our days are often filled with the tasks of managing our families and households, the demands of work, obligations to church, community, God. Ongoing war, political division, hatred among humans... I could go on and on... I think it is easy to lose sight of who we are and what it is we're really doing. Does it matter? Does it make a difference? Do I matter?

When the fog lifts and the sky changes color, we need to remind ourselves; **“See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are.”**

Easier said than done, I know. However, I can tell you with full confidence that repeating this mantra has a much more powerful and positive affect than all of the existential questions and worries that we allow to fill our minds.

This message from John is truth. It is not abstract. We are loved by God. We are God's own.

We can never know what the day holds, but we can be assured that God has prepared things beyond anything that we have hoped or desired: Beauty beyond anything that our eyes have seen. Music beyond anything our ears have heard. Wonders beyond anything that our hearts have desired.

John speaks with wonder at the amazing privilege that God has bestowed on us. Try to recover that sense of wonder and gratitude.

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

## *Birthdays and Events*

### Happy November Birthday to our "Golden Aged" members

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. 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.

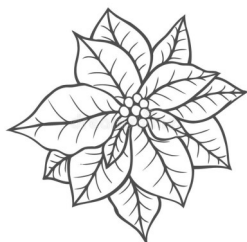
Coffee Hour is held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday at 9:30 AM. Sign-up sheet in the narthex.



### Poinsettia Orders

Cost is \$7.00.

Plant are red blooming with green foil.



Order envelopes are in the narthex.

Orders are due on

Sunday, November 27.



### St. Luke History Books

Available for \$20.00

Please contact Anna Mae Grubb:  
717-273-7035 or [mrgrubby@comcast.net](mailto:mrgrubby@comcast.net).

### Book Club

Book Club will be meeting on Thursday, November 9th at 7:00pm in the Chapel. We will be discussing *Leonard and Hungry Paul* by Ronan Hession.

Everyone is invited for a great discussion.



### WELCA White Christmas

The Women of the ELCA is sponsoring a night to see ELCO High School's performance of *White Christmas* on Friday, December 15th at 7:00 PM. A signup will be located in the chapel.



Spang Crest Event: St. Luke is scheduled to host an event on November 15, 2023 at Spang Crest for a fun gathering for the guests. Anybody is welcome to join Linda Hollinger to play some games and provide a treat. Donations for small prizes and gifts would be greatly appreciated. Suggestions are tissues, lotions, small chocolate bars, long necklaces and seasonal Knick-Knacks. There will be a basket in the back of the church for any items.

## *Worship – Arts – Volunteers*

### Looking ahead into December

December 3: Advent 1—Dedication of the Greens  
 December 24: Advent 4—no morning service  
 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: 11:00 PM  
 December 31: Joint service: Lessons and Carols  
 with St. Paul Penryn. Service at St. Luke

### Our worship attendance:

	In person	Online
9/17	42	42
9/24	27	63
10/1	Service at Penryn	
10/8	33	36
10/15	35	35
10/22	24	34

### Thank-Offering Sunday and Guest Speaker Wayne Gongaware—November 19

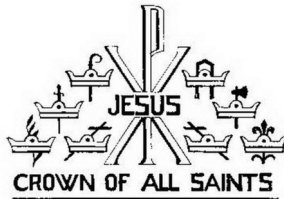
Please bring your food items to place around the altar rail for Harvest Home.  
 All food donations will go to the Lebanon County Food Bank.

Everyone needs a decent place to call home. When families live in stable, affordable housing, they have the capacity to build their own brighter futures. That's the message that Wayne Gongaware, Lancaster Lebanon Habitat for Humanity board member, will be sharing with our congregation on Sunday, November 19 following our service. All are welcome to attend the discussion and learn how you can help local families on their journey to achieve Habitat homeownership in our communities.

### Lay Readers and Worship Assistants for November:

11/5            Elaine Matternas  
 11/12          Donna Moyer  
 11/19          Steffi Gettler  
 11/26          Linda Holt

Worship Assistant: Sue DeLong



### All Saints Sunday—November 5

We will remember  
 these saints  
 in our worship service.

Janice Miller  
 Leon Boyer  
 Avis Malcolm, Jr  
 Harold (Tom) Nolt

### Council Invitation:

Please prayerfully consider serving on council. The terms of 4 members of council are concluding at the annual congregation meeting in January. One of those 4 has consented to another term and at this time 2 other church members have agreed to serve. Council needs 3 more people to serve. If interested or would like more information, please talk to a current council member or notify the church office.

### 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 5

Please provide: Canned Vegetables, Spaghetti and Sauce, Pasta/Stuffing and Rice, Canned Fruits, Canned Soups, Peanut Butter and Jelly, New Reusable Plastic Containers (not used).

### Annual Quilt Auction November 5 2:00-6:00 PM

Nawakwa 1033 Nawakwa Rd, Biglerville, PA,

Join us for this year's Quilt Auction, November 5, at Nawakwa. This fun-filled day of bidding raises money for the LCC Endowment Fund, which helps to financially sustain our fine ministry activities.

### Women's Craft Retreat November 10 5:00 PM to November 12 1:00 PM

Nawakwa 1033 Nawakwa Rd, Biglerville

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.



## The Lutheran Camping Corporation of Central Pennsylvania

Kirchenwald, Nawakwa, & The Wittel Farm

### Warmth for Winter:

In conjunction with Warmth for Winter, the Women of the ELCA will be collecting new pillows and new blankets for those in need locally.

### Lebanon County Christian Ministries

2023 Benefit Dinner and Silent Auction

Thursday, November 16      5:30-8:30 PM      Tickets \$40

### 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 Deysner, & 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 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:

November 9 (Matthew 25:1-13) & November 30 (Mark 13<sup>24-37</sup>)

December 14 (John 1:6-8, 19-28)

### BEER & BIBLE:

A Thursday evening monthly meeting at the Franklin House for dinner, drinks, and conversation. Join us at 6:30 PM on November 16, December 14.

### SATURDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY:

This will be a combined time of learning and discussion with members of the Penryn congregation. This will occur on the first Saturday of the month, rotating our meeting location and our topics of discussion. Join us on November 4 at 9:00 AM at St. Luke.

Please bring a breakfast snack to share. Coffee and drinks will be provided

November 4 – St. Luke – Greif and faith

December 2 – Penryn – Why waiting is difficult, yet important

### ADVENT BIBLE STUDY:

Where and how do you encounter God? God, through the prophet Isaiah, urges us to take comfort, trusting that the **“the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all people shall see it together”** (Isaiah 40:5). At a time when our world bears the wounds of conflict, hunger, and disaster, it can be challenging to uncover where and how God is at work. Yet we know in faith that God is actively working in the world, transforming, reconciling, sustaining, and inciting us to ever-greater acts of justice and mercy. In the season of Advent, we reflect on our biblical ancestors, waiting for the coming of the Messiah as they, too, longed for God to be revealed, **“to lift up the lowly and fill the hungry with good things”** (Luke 1:52-53).

Join us with Penryn on Wednesday evenings over ZOOM at 6:30 PM

November 29, December 6, December 13, December 20

## Lutheran World Relief - Ingathering

### Lutheran World Relief Ingathering and Dedication September 24, 2023

Thank you to Sue Hettinger who helps to lay the quilts together each month. Thank you to Sandy Smith who sews tops and does all the binding of the quilts. Her daughter, Andrea McAllister has begun to sew tops and Carol Lebo continues to sew tops. Anna Ruth Burkholder continues to give us cut squares. We thank her for her partnership in this project.

Thank you also to St. Luke members for your sheets, mattress pads, blankets, material, crochet yarn and batting that is purchased. The cost of batting has gone from \$60.00 to \$120.00 a roll. We get 18-20 quilts from our roll. If you are willing to make a donation it would be appreciated. WELCA pays for the batting.

This year the ladies made 104 quilts. It cost LWR \$2.25 for the shipping of each quilt. Your donation helps to pay the cost. Last year 220,000 quilts traveled to 19 countries. Thank you to the following people who lifted and carried 40 lb. boxes from curbs to truck to larger trucks: Sue DeLong, Mike DeLong, Paul DeLong, Sharon Reber, Mike Reber, Judy Werner, Jake Werner, Judy Plummer, Anna Mae Grubb, and Andrea McAllister. They carried a total of 408 quilts, 603 Personal Care Kits, 12 Fabric Kits, 14 Baby Care Kits and 1,028 School Kits.

A special thank you to **Plain and Fancy** and their volunteers, Scott Schollenberger and Will Haverstroh for driving, carrying and stacking the boxes onto the Plain and Fancy truck. They drove from St. Luke Lutheran Schaefferstown to Salem Lutheran Lebanon to St. Marks Annville and then the next day to Bergstrasse Ephrata. Members of Bergstrasse Evangelical Lutheran Church transport the boxes to New Windsor, Maryland Lutheran World Relief warehouse to be distributed worldwide.

God's Work - Our **Many** Hands!  
Blessings,  
Anna Mae Grubb and Sue DeLong



**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 Corporation has an auction. This year, a baby quilt was donated.