

# St. Luke Lutheran Church

PO Box 278 Schaefferstown, PA 17088 717-949-3375

November 12, 2023

24th Sunday after Pentecost

Service of the Word



St. Luke Guiding Story and Mission:

The Road to Emmaus: Luke 24:13-35

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.

## Welcome!

We are glad you have joined us today.

Visitors: please sign the visitor book  
upon entering the sanctuary.

Guide to abbreviations:

**P:** spoken by the Pastor      **C: Congregation responds**

WOV—With One voice— blue hymnal

LBW—Lutheran Book of Worship—green hymnal

\* stand as you are able

On our website ([stlukelutheran.org](http://stlukelutheran.org)), you can find current events and links to our  
online worship services.

Direct access:

Facebook is at [www.facebook.com/StLukeEvangelicalLutheran](http://www.facebook.com/StLukeEvangelicalLutheran), or on YouTube:  
[www.youtube.com/@stlukeschaefferstownpa](http://www.youtube.com/@stlukeschaefferstownpa)

## GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

### Welcome and Announcements

#### Prelude

#### Confession and Forgiveness:

P: Blessed be God,

the one who forms us,

✠ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

*Silence for self reflection*

**C: Steadfast and faithful God,**

**you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you.**

**We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering.**

**We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.**

**For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.**

**For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us.**

**For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us.**

**Lead us back to you and set us on the right path;**

**in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

**Amen.**

P: Beloved in Christ,

God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.

God's compassion is beyond compare.

In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.

In ✠ Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

**C: Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn: Let the Whole Creation Cry—LBW 242**

**\*Apostolic Greeting:**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray...

**\*Prayer of the Day:** Please see Celebrate insert

**WORD**

**God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song**

The scriptures are printed on the Celebrate insert

**First Reading:** Amos 5:18-24

The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 70** Read responsively

**Second Reading:** 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the twenty-fifth chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**\*Gospel:** Matthew 25:1-13

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**The Message**

**Hymn of the Day:** I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light—WOV 649

**\*Apostles' Creed:**

P: Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed

**C:** I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen

**\*Passing the Peace:**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

P: Let us share his peace with one another.

*(Congregation may share the peace with a gesture)*

**C:** Amen.

**\*Prayers of Intercession:** Please see Celebrate insert

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C:** Our Father, who art in heaven hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen

### **Prayer for our Veterans, those serving, and the nation.**

P: Let us pray for all veterans of war. O Lord, today we thank you for our veterans, for their willingness to risk all so that our nation might dwell in peace and safety. May our veterans find the honor and recognition they truly deserve. We pray that you will heal the physical, spiritual, and psychological wounds some of our veterans have suffered. Bring a lasting peace to those who mourn the loss of comrades. Help them to trust in your love and mercy, so that they may cope with the actions they may have had to take while they served our country. Help them realize that the rules of engagement in war do not always follow the laws of Christianity but give them solace by your scripture passages that show them that there are times during which, after every effort for a non-violent resolution fails, battle may be necessary for the common good. Clinging to the cross of Christ we cry out,

**C: hear us Lord.**

P: Let us pray for those preparing for or actively serving in war zones. You are our rock, our fortress, and our shield, and those at war need you to be all these things and more. They don't have to be in the heat of battle to be in danger; the world is a dangerous place wherever they are. Help them turn to you as their refuge and strength – always ready to help in times of trouble. Go before them and protect them from behind. Be their shade from the heat, their shelter from the storm, their hiding place. Watch over them, for you never sleep. Their lives are in your hands; may they trust in you and not be afraid. Clinging to the cross of Christ we cry out,

**C: hear us Lord.**

P: Let us pray for our country. Almighty God, you have given us this good land as our heritage. Make us always remember your generosity and constantly do your will. Bless our land with honest industry, truthful education, and an honorable way of life.

Save us from violence, discord, and confusion, from pride and arrogance, and from every evil course of action. Make us who came from many nations with many different languages a united people. Give those whom we have entrusted with the authority of government the spirit of wisdom, that there might be justice and peace in our land, and the world around us. When times are prosperous, let our hearts be thankful; and in troubled times, do not let our trust in you fail. We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord, Prince of Peace, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, both now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING

God sends us boldly into the world to share the good news

### \*Blessing:

P: The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

\*Closing Hymn: One Our Way Rejoicing—LBW 260

### \*Sending:

P: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude



Copying of Liturgy and Music covered by the following licenses: Augsburg Fortress copyright license #4439-L One License.net License #A-710139. Reprinted from *With One Voice*, copyright © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license #13882-W. Sundays and Seasons, copyright © 2012).

**Our worshipping community:**

**Pastor:** Rev. Angela Hammer      **Minister of Music:** Linda Holt

**Ministers:** The People of St. Luke      **Pianist:** Dave Deysher

**October Worship Assistant:** Donna Rhodes

**Today's Lay Reader:** Richelle Deysher      **Lay Reader next week:** Faith Thunberg

**Live Streaming Technician:** William Hoffman      **Technical Assistant:** Beverly Hoffman

Attendance—November 5    In person: 56    Online: 41    Offering: \$4,814

*The altar flowers are given by Anna Mae Grubb  
in honor of all Veterans.*

**This week at St. Luke**

**Sunday, November 12—Pentecost 24**

8:30 AM                      Service of the Word  
9:30 AM                      Sunday School (Children)  
9:30 AM                      Coffee Hour  
5:30 PM-7:00 PM      Community Free Meal

**Monday, November 13**

7:00 PM                      WELCA

**Tuesday, November 14**

10:00 AM                      Band Together

**Wednesday, November 15**

9:00–2:00 PM              LWR Quilting  
7:00 PM                      Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, November 16**

10:00 AM                      Band Together  
11:00 AM                      Zoom Bible Study  
11:30 AM-1:00 PM      Community Free Meal

**Sunday, November 19—Pentecost 25—Thank-Offering**

8:30 AM                      Service of Holy Communion  
9:30 AM                      Sunday School (Children/Adults)  
5:30 PM-7:00 PM      Community Free Meal

## NEWS IN OUR PEWS



**Thursday morning ZOOM Bible Study:** Join Pastor Angie online 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. The next date is November 30 at 10:00 AM

**Beer & Bible:** A Thursday evening monthly meeting at the Franklin House for dinner, drinks, and conversation. Join us this Thursday, November 16 at 6:30 PM.

**Coffee Hour:** Volunteers are always welcome! Please sign up in narthex.



**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.



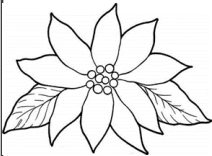
**Habitat for Humanity:** Everyone needs a decent place to call home. When families live in stable, with affordable housing, they have the capacity to build their own brighter futures. That's the message that Wayne Gongaware, Lancaster Lebanon Habitat for Humanity board member, will be sharing with our 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.





**History Books:** These are available for \$20.00. Please contact Anna Mae Grubb: 717-273-7035 or mrgrubby@comcast.net.

**Ministry Emphasis for November:** Lebanon County Food Bank



**Poinsettia Orders** Cost is \$7.00 each. Plants are red blooming with green foil. Order envelopes are in the narthex. Orders are due on Sunday, November 27.

**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.



**Thank-Offering service:** Please remember to bring in your food donations for the thank-offering service next week.



**Thanksgiving Meal at Penryn:** Donations for Penryn's annual free Thanksgiving take home meal are needed. Please consider donating any of the following items: Turkey, instant mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, canned veggies, cranberry sauce, cookies. Please see Pastor Angie if you'd like to volunteer or if you have questions. Thanks in advance for your support!

**Yes, you can sing!** That means you can join the choir and share your musical gifts. Choir rehearsals are held on Wednesday at 7:00 PM. Contact Linda Holt for more information.

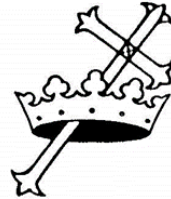


Mark your calendar for these upcoming services:



November 19—Thank-Offering

November 26—Christ the King



December 3—Advent Dedication of the Greens

December 24—no morning services

Christmastide Services:

December 24—Family Service at  
St. Paul in Penryn—6:30 PM

December 24—Candlelight Service at  
St. Luke—11:00 PM



Sunday, December 31—Combined Service of  
Lessons and Carols at St. Luke—10:00 AM

## *Prayers for:*

### **Those who are ill, recovering, or shut-in, especially:**

John Adams, Marilyn Adams, Claudia Addison, Brenda Boyer, Amanda Cupernall, Alexandria (Lexxi) Ditzler, Cathy Dunkelberger, Henry Fasnacht, Deb Glassmoyer, Peg Griffie, David Grubb, Bill Gundrum, Kim Lenhart Hale, John Hassinger, Earl Hehnl, Dean Hettinger, Lilly Higgins & Family, Richard and Nancy Hollen, Christopher Johnson (D Hettinger), Landon Kreider, Richard Leshner, Ken Light, Donald and Sue McClure, Steven McCracken, Casey McGarvey, Dana McKinney, Maureen Marinkov, Harold (Spike) Moore, Howard Moore, Brian Navarre, Barry Nolt, Kathy O'Roark, Ruth Parson, George Pastore, Ronald Ream, Lance Rhodes, Landon Rhodes, Al Shade, Barry Shriver, Lloyd Smith, Richard Strohl, Caitlyn, Gretta and Mike Stuber, Robert Todisco, Landis Wenger, Josephine Wenrich, Janet Wharton, Josie Williams, Eddie Wolfe, Marian Yoder, Ashton Zohn.

### **Those who are serving in the military, especially:**

Timothy Beamesderfer, David Deysher, Tyler Fleagle, Shane Gettler, Steven Ginder, Matthew Plummer, Greg Rucker.

### **Congregations and ministries with whom we share mutual ministry:**

The congregations and pastors of the Heidelberg Ministerium and Lebanon Conference, Agape House, Lebanon Co. Christian Ministries, Women's Shelter, Lancaster/Lebanon Habitat for Humanity, Lebanon Rescue Mission, Support Connections of Lebanon County, St. Paul's Penryn, Our Bishops: James S. Dunlop and Elizabeth Eaton and their staff.

**The St. Luke Vision to Mission Team** - Kit Ahnert, Richelle Deysher, Elaine Matternas, Scott Rights, and Todd Snyder.

**Please notify the church office and Pastor Angie**  
**when the prayer chain is activated and for pastoral care & emergencies.**  
**For revisions to the above list, please contact the church office.**

