

St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church Newsletter

December
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, December 3— Advent 1

8:30 AM Holy Communion/Dedication of Greens

9:30 AM Sunday School (Children and Adults)

Sunday, December 10 — Advent 2

8:30 AM Service of the Word

9:30 AM Sunday School (Children)

Sunday, December 17 — Advent 3

8:30 AM Holy Communion

9:30 AM Sunday School (Children and Adults)

Sunday, December 24—Advent 4

8:30 AM— no morning service

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

11:00 PM—Candlelight Service at St. Luke

Sunday, December 31—Christmastide

10:00—Combined Service of Lessons and Carols
at St. Luke

The service is livestreamed weekly on our Facebook page: at
<https://www.facebook.com/StLukeEvangelicalLutheran>,
or on YouTube using the following link:

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From our Pastor:

With the Feast of All Saints, Thanksgiving, and Christ the King Sunday now behind us, we are quickly approaching the end of the church year and the beginning of the season of Advent and Christmas. This season is often one of the favorites of the church, even as the weather gets colder, we enjoy the warmth, the familiarity and beauty of the age-old traditions of the seasons of Advent and Christmas. A feeling that is familiar to all of us - maybe an unwanted feeling - is the feeling of waiting.

We are all waiting. We are waiting for someone we love to feel better. We are waiting for answers to questions we desperately ask. We are waiting for news, be it good or bad. We are waiting for someone to die or someone to be born. We are all waiting.

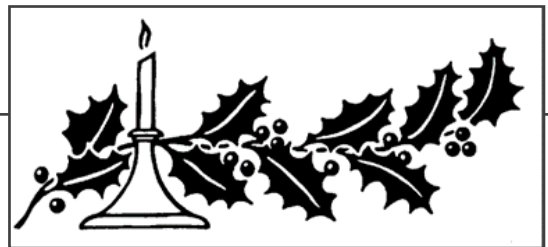
Waiting is kind of like a wrestling match. There's a struggle, a power in which we push up against, resist, wiggle away from (I guess it depends on the nature of what it is you're waiting for). In the wrestling, there is self-discovery. Maybe its strength, wisdom, a perseverance that you didn't know lived deep inside of you. Waiting is part of human life. Though we may not enjoy waiting, there is something to be learned and gained in the waiting. Like wrestling, I think if we engage the wait with a determined mindset to gain something from it, we'll discover something beautiful that's been part of ourselves all along. Strength. Beloved. When we resist, we pull further away from the lesson we're meant to learn. We then find ourselves pinned down. Defeated. Frustrated.

As Christians, we should be well poised for this waiting. Advent is a season of waiting – yes waiting for the celebration for Christmas, but more importantly, it marks a season of waiting for Jesus' second coming. As a church we have been patiently waiting for that day for over two-thousand years, perseverance is a hallmark of our faith and so I call each and every one of us to keep the faith and to embrace the gifts of hope, peace, joy and love that we experience and celebrate in the Advent season.

Waiting isn't easy, but by the power of the Holy Spirit and through the faith and support of your fellow members I pray that you will persevere and not lose hope. God is with you; God is with our church; God is with our communities. That I know, and I pray that you will know that truth too.

Merry Christmas and Blessings as we say goodbye to 2023!

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Angie +



Newsletter Update:

We're trying something new! We are combining the St. Luke and Penryn newsletters. The once-a-month publication will be prepared and printed every other month, making each newsletter two months' worth of information. You can still get your newsletter the same way – it will just have more news! We hope this helps to keep the two congregations better informed of what each community is doing and how we can be involved with more ministries.

Worship and Arts

Christmas at St. Luke and St. Paul

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

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

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

Lay Readers and Worship Assistants for December

3 Mike DeLong/ Sharon Reber/
Melissa and Steffi Gettler/Faith Thunberg
10 Richelle Deysher
17 Dolores Fasnacht
24 Donna Moyer, Faith Thunberg, Richelle Deysher
31 combined service
Council members of both churches

Our worship attendance

	In person	Online
10/8	33	36
10/15	35	35
10/22	24	34
10/29	44	66
11/5	56	41
11/12	33	n/a

Contemporary Service

Beginning in January, the “contemporary service” will look and feel different. A new liturgy is being developed. New musicians will be joining the group. New music will be introduced. We’ll be having fun trying new things, hopefully enhancing the service, making our time together on these Sunday mornings meaningful. Your feedback is important! As we experiment and try new things, it’s important to know how you feel about the service. You’re encouraged to speak with Pastor Angie or any member of the worship and music committee to share your thoughts!

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.

Save the date

Annual Congregational Meeting is
Sunday, January 28 at 9:30.

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

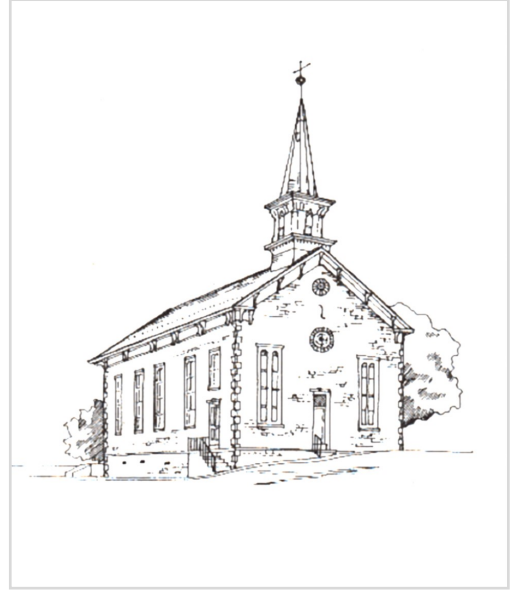
All of our St. Luke Family



Birthdays / Events / Thanks

Happy Birthday to our "Golden Aged" members this month

December 17 - Harry Sanders
December 18 - Paula Benson
December 18 - William Gundrum
December 21 - Scott Thunberg
December 25 - Janet Zerbe
December 28 - David Davis



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.

St. Luke History Books

Available for \$20.00

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

Coffee Hour

You are invited to join us on the 2nd and 4th Sunday at 9:30 AM. Please sign-up sheet in the narthex if you would be willing to host.



Book Club



Book Club will be meeting on January 11, 2024 at 7:00pm in the Chapel. We will be discussing *Beyond That, The Sea* by: Laura Spence-Ash. Please join us for an evening of lively discussion, all are welcome. Any questions please contact Richelle Deysher.



With Thanks!



Our family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for the outpouring of cards, prayers and support in Tom's passing. We are genuinely touched and comforted by the caring thoughts surrounding us as we gather strength to move forward, keeping him fondly and forever in our memories. Special thank you also to Pastor Angie for all her help and guidance. With love and gratitude, Betsy Nolt and Family



Thank you to Pastor Angie and everyone at St. Luke church family for your cards, prayers, and well wishes. My recovering is going well. There have been many blessings during my health concerns. David Grubb

Mission, Ministry, and Camp Events



Food Bank Sunday—Sunday, December 3

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

ADVENT DAY—December 9 - 9:00-2:00 PM—\$15—The Wittel Farm
1753 Mill Rd, Elizabethtown

Join us for an Advent Day - a day of Bible study, worship, and prayerful reflection as we seek to prepare for the coming of the Christ. Registration fee includes lunch. \$15

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS IN THE BARN— DECEMBER 17—7:00-8:30 PM

The Wittel Farm - Join us at the farm for our annual Advent/Christmas night. This year, we'll gather around the outdoor fire and have cookies and cocoa in the barn. Lights and decorations!

WINTER YOUTH RETREAT—JANUARY 5-7— Kirchenwald—1 Cut Off Rd, Lebanon
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. \$170

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

Warmth for Winter:

As the temperatures start dropping, we know that many in our community will appreciate some extra warmth this winter. WELCA are asking for donations of new blankets and pillows. Collection is through November in baskets at the back of the church or leave in the chapel. We are still compiling information on needs for warm clothing and will be seeking your assistance or financial contributions for that segment of the Warmth program. Thanks to all of you for your generosity in supporting this outreach program.

Ministry Emphasis for December

Habitat for Humanity

Thank you for your support!



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.



Bible Study Opportunities

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY: Every Wednesday at 6:30 PM via Zoom. Link is emailed weekly.

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). We thank you for joining ELCA World Hunger in this Advent study as we discern together the ways we encounter the living God today. Through reflection on the stories of our biblical past and the stories of ministries responding to hunger and poverty today, we will explore together the many ways “the glory of the Lord” is revealed in communities that have come together to confront deep challenges with strength, hope and longing for a just world where all are fed. Each session of this study will explore one way we encounter God, from revelation to proclamation.

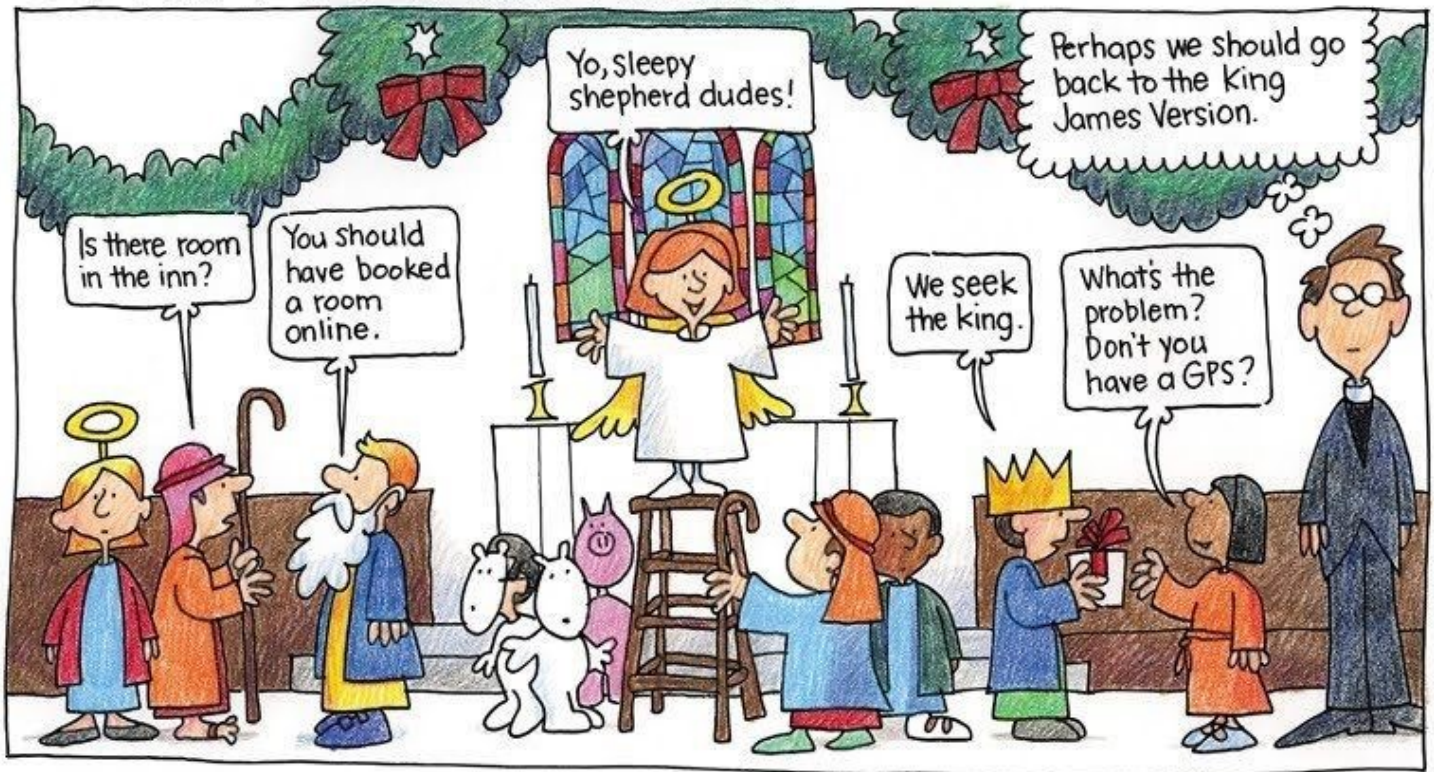
BEER & BIBLE: meets once a month at a local pub. If you have not participated in this social gathering/text study, give it a try. We meet for dinner, drinks, and conversation at the Franklin House. Join us and bring a friend on Thursday, December 14 at 6:30 PM.

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. Next date is Thursday, December 14 at 10:00 AM.

SATURDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY: Meets once a month at 9:00 AM on the first Saturday alternating between St. Paul in Penryn and St. Luke.

Lutheran Laughter

THE RECTOR DROPS IN ON THE PAGEANT REHEARSAL



"They say they are three kings."

