



# ***THE ST. LUKE LETTER***

## ***February 2026***

Dear Siblings in Christ,

Last week I caught a head cold that forced me to slow down and give my body time to heal. As inconvenient as it was, that head cold became an unexpected gift—a *forced sabbath*. It created space to rest, to reflect, to pray, and to listen more closely for God's voice.

We are all busy—often busier than we need to be. We fill our calendars, push through fatigue, and convince ourselves that rest can wait. Yet Scripture calls us to something different: to self-care, to sabbath, to holy rest. Not as laziness, but as restoration. Rest is not the opposite of faithfulness; it is part of it. We rest so that we can be renewed and strengthened to live out God's call as disciples—loving one another as Jesus loves us.

So, I invite you to reflect: *What is your sabbath?* What practices help you pause, breathe, pray, and be restored?

I hope you will consider this question before exhaustion or illness forces you to stop. But if you already find yourself worn down or unwell, hear this word of grace: take the time you need. Rest. Pray. Reflect. Renew yourself. In doing so, trust that you are held, blessed, and deeply loved by God.

May this season be one in which we learn—not just to do more—but to rest well in the One who restores our souls.

Yours In Christ,  
Pr. Becky Horn

**A Note from Pr. Becky:** Are you or a loved one desiring a visit from the pastor? Do you have questions on faith, your spiritual life, or wish for a time of prayer? Please contact Pastor Becky if you would like her to call or visit you at home, in the hospital, or another location. (office: 814-364-9154, cell: 215-208-5535, email: [stluke364pastorbecky@gmail.com](mailto:stluke364pastorbecky@gmail.com) )



**YOU TUBE LIVE LINK - Sunday Morning Worship via YouTube Live** – the 10:30 worship service is available via YouTube Live Stream. Please use the link below from your favorite web browser. The service is also recorded if you are away and would like to watch at a later time.

(either click on the link below, or copy and paste into the search bar)

[https://www.youtube.com/@StLukeLutheran\\_CentreHall/live](https://www.youtube.com/@StLukeLutheran_CentreHall/live)



**Due to the severe Snow Storm on January 25<sup>th</sup>, St. Luke's Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, February 1st, following both the 8am and 10:30am worship services.** Annual Reports are available in the narthex for member review prior to the meeting. Please note: Council Elections will also be taking place at the Annual Meeting.

Join us for a short service of Word and Prayer in Pastor Becky's office on Wednesday Mornings from 10:30-11am as we pray for all on our prayer list and others whom we know. Let Pastor Becky know if you have any questions or know of a prayer concern (private or public). The Prayer Group has resumed meeting in the Sanctuary.



Our next book group meeting is on February 25<sup>th</sup>. We will meet to discuss *The Prayer Box: A Novel* by Lisa Wingate at 12:00 pm at Seven Mountains Winery Join us for discussion, conversation, and fellowship!

In February, the Adult Sunday School Class will only meet on February 15<sup>th</sup> from 9:15-10:00am. No class on February 1<sup>st</sup>. This is a video and discussion-based class led by Shawn Lehman. Please join us in enriching discussions about our faith.



### **THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS PROGRAM** **-Support What Matters Most To You**



By participating in the Thrivent Choice charitable outreach program, eligible Thrivent members have helped make good things happen for many congregations and nonprofit organizations nationwide by directing Choice Dollars since the program's launch in 2010. Eligible Thrivent members are designated Choice Dollars throughout the year, based on their insurance and annuity premiums, contract values and standing as a Thrivent volunteer leader. They can direct Choice Dollars to thousands of nonprofit organizations nationwide. **Thrivent members have until March 31, 2026 to designate their Thrivent Choice dollars accrued in 2025.**



**FOOD PANTRY:** The Centre Hall/Penns Valley Food Pantry is located in the lower level of Grace United Methodist Church. The monthly distribution day is the Third Tuesday of each month from 1:30-3pm except for August when it is held the second Tuesday. In case of an emergency, a coordinator can always be contacted for a food distribution. The next monthly food distribution will be held on **Tuesday, February 17, 2026**, at Grace United Methodist Church, Centre Hall. Volunteers are needed to pack and distribute boxes from **8:00am-4:00 pm**.

Now that the Food Pantry is serving all of Penns Valley, the monthly need more than doubled. We are now serving over 110 families so any help you could provide would be greatly appreciated. The most needed items typically remain shelf stable items like canned goods, cereals, pastas, etc.; however, there is an emphasis item each month that is listed below. If you would like to make a donation, please place non-perishable items in the designated Food Pantry Box located in the narthex at St. Luke Lutheran Church on or before **Sunday, February 15, 2026**. You may also make a monetary donation by specifying a designated amount on your offering envelope, by making a check payable to St. Luke with "Food Pantry" in the memo line and placing it in the offering plate, or by placing a cash donation in an envelope in the offering plate that is specially marked for Food Pantry.

**NEW LIST - Suggested Monthly Donation List for the Food Pantry:**

- |  |                            |
|--|----------------------------|
| January – Tissues                            | July – Liquid Hand Soap    |
| <b>February -Toilet Paper</b>                | August – Laundry Detergent |
| March – Toothpaste & Individual Toothbrushes | September - Shampoo        |
| April – Household Cleaners                   | October - Toilet Paper     |
| May - Kitchen Garbage Bags                   | November - Sandwich Bags   |
| June - Paper Towels                          | December - Dish Detergent  |

We are Blessed by our volunteers who order and shop for food, unload delivery trucks, sort donated food, pack orders, register clients and deliver to a few clients who have no transportation. If you would like to volunteer in any way or if you would like more information about the Food Pantry, you can contact Anne Gaddis at 814-404-4693, [annegad58@gmail.com](mailto:annegad58@gmail.com) or Page Gaddis at 814-571-8110, [paggad@protonmail.com](mailto:paggad@protonmail.com). You may also speak to Gary Zellers who is the St. Luke Food Pantry representative in 2026. Thank you so much for any assistance you can give to this important outreach in our community.



**ST LUKE’S ANNUAL "SOUP" ER BOWL SOUP COLLECTION—**  
**Bring in cans of soup from now through Super Bowl Sunday, February 8, 2026,**  
**to benefit the Centre Hall/Penns Valley Food Pantry. Your generous donations**  
**will help your neighbors enjoy a warm & comforting meal this winter and will**  
**remind them of God’s love.**





**Ash Wednesday/Lent**—Community Ash Wednesday Worship Services will be taking place at St. Luke this year, on Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm. Lenten Worship Services will continue each Wednesday in Lent on February 25, March 4, March 11, March 18 and March 25 at 7:00pm at St. Luke.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday on March 29<sup>th</sup>, Maundy Thursday on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Good Friday on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and Easter Sunday on April 5<sup>th</sup>.



**Lunch & Learn**—On Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, the Congregational Relations Committee has invited Sheriff Bryan Sampsell to come in for a training on active shooter situations called “Run, Hide, Fight”. Sheriff Sampsell has done many of these important trainings, and we hope you will choose to attend. A light lunch will be held immediately following 10:30am worship, beginning at approximately 11:45am. The presentation will begin at 12:30pm and will last approximately one and a half hours. We do ask that you sign up in the narthex if you plan to attend so we have a general idea of how many to prepare for. Thank you.



St. Luke Lutheran Church will cancel all scheduled activities, including office hours, whenever the Penns Valley School District shuts down due to weather-related concerns. In addition to accessing weather-related closures on local television, the Penns Valley School District also posts closure information on its website which can be visited at [pennsvalley.org](http://pennsvalley.org). Should inclement weather affect any activities or Sunday worship, please check your email and/or St. Luke Facebook page.



The Nittany Conference Pre-Assembly Meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2026 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pine Grove Mills.

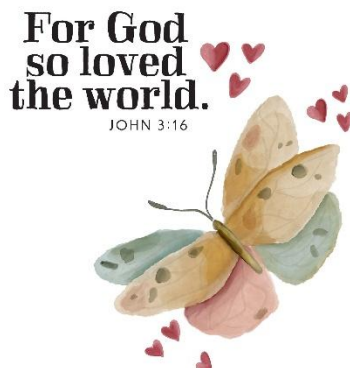




- Feb. 9 Daniel and Polly Brooks
- 10 Ronald and Dawn Holsopple



- Feb.3 Beth Araujo
- 4 Sue Chappell
- 6 Catherine Bierlein
- Donald Fetterolf, Jr.
- 8 Jack Sharer
- 9 Marshall Brooks
- David Ferree
- Sandra Ferree
- Robert Ishler
- 13 Nick Bair
- 15 George Murphy
- Julia Delaney
- 17 Ken Long
- 19 Kira Reeder
- 21 Jody Lair
- 22 Adam Herrold
- Baylor Shunk
- 27 Justin Herrold



**Bishop Installation**- Pastor Kevin Shock, Bishop-Elect, will be installed on **February 7th at 2:00pm** at Mt. Calvary Church, Johnstown. If you signed up to attend the installation, and would like to carpool, please see the carpool list in the narthex to coordinate rides with the others who have signed up.

Dear St. Luke Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your contribution to the HOPE Fund of Penns Valley. The mission of providing emergency financial assistance to residents of Penns Valley would not have been possible without your generosity.

Since 2008, we are grateful that we have been able to help over 350 families/individuals in our valley and dispersed over \$One Million to help with one's mortgage/rent, electricity, heating fuel, medical bills, food, and gas cards, we never give cash. Contributions are used in supporting the needs of Penns Valley residents without the burden of administrative overhead as The Hope Fund is operated on a volunteer basis. As the organization continues to grow, we feel that it is important to keep donors informed of how their contributions are making an impact in the lives of residents and invite you to visit our website for information, prayer requests, and upcoming events. <http://pennsvalleyhopefund.com>

Once again, thank you for your support and contribution in making a difference in the lives of residents of Penns Valley.

Sincerely, Audrey Smith, Donor Relations  
(Excerpt of Letter Received)

## PRAYER CONCERNS

*Pray for the recovery and the Lord's healing and peace on our brothers and sisters.*

Melinda Farhenbach...health concerns

Jeff Reeder...multiple myeloma

Tshana Myers...health concerns

Donald Hosterman...hip surgery

Liesel Klena...health concerns

Gay Homan...recov. from fall

Amy Homan...health concerns

Tara Homan...health concerns

Heather Korman...health concerns

Tim...health concerns

Ellie Marooney...cancer

Ron Holsopple...health concerns

Melody Green...health concerns

Deb Fraizer...broken arm

Diane Jacoby...health concerns

Marjorie Korman...recov. gall bladder surgery

Don Frier...multiple falls

Linda Wolfe...recov. From back surgery

Louise Miller...health concerns

Jane Kurzinger...recov. from stroke

Cindy Foust...cancer

Ted McPherrin...health concerns

Cathy Brunner...health concerns

Greg Garner...health concerns

### **Ongoing Prayer Concerns:**

Greg Bohn...kidney issues

Jim & Tanya Evans...health concerns

Jean Bender...myelodysplastic syndrome

Karen Willar...cancer

Paul & Sandy Larson...health concern

Nancy Boyle...respiratory issues

Bob & Betty Ishler...health concerns

Mike Moyer...health concerns

Lisa Moir...cancer

Joan Glaser...health concerns

Barbara & Ernie Kirsch...health concerns

Freda Schluter...health concerns

Pr. Russ Sauerwein...health concerns

Darlene Fultz...health concerns

Dona Bean...cancer

Sabrina Wert...remission and healing

Dave Ferree...health concerns

Paulette Smigo...life concerns

Don Rudy...health concerns

Silas Green...multiple health issues

Dotti Sauerwein...healing and strength

Lee Kolos...health concerns

Gary Homan...Parkinson's

Paul "Fox" Dietrich...health concerns

Sherri Taylor...cancer

Bev Haines...health concerns

Nancy Wintersteen...health concerns

Marilyn Wendt...dementia

Jordan Holsopple...health concerns

Ellen Coffman...cancer

Sam Rudy...recov. kidney transplant

### **Please pray for the Health of our Homebound:**

Fred Lohr Jr. (244 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Centre Hall, PA 16828...814-364-9368)

Barbara Mark (Wynwood House, 122 Wynwood Dr, Centre Hall, PA 16828)

Gladys Sampsel (c/o Randy & Julia Long, 165 Reeder Rd, Spring Mills, PA 16875)

Bob Smeltzer (Wynwood House, 122 Wynwood Dr, Centre Hall, PA 16828)

**\*If You Would Like to Add, Update or Remove a Prayer Concern: Please notify the Church Office by calling 814-364-9154 or emailing [StLuke364@gmail.com](mailto:StLuke364@gmail.com).**

**-Updated 1/28/26**

**THANKS BE TO GOD FOR OUR  
WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS**

**February 1, 2026 –4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

Altar Care: **Open**  
Altar Flowers: **Open**  
Communion Bread: Shari Welch  
Counters: Ellen Hug and Deb Frazier  
Greeter (8am): Gary Zellers  
Greeter (10:30am): **Open**  
Lay Reader (8am): Michele Shawver  
Lay Reader (10:30am): Deb Frazier  
Bell Ringer (10:30am): **Open**  
Offering Usher (10:30am): Walt Schluter  
Worship Assistant (10:30am): Carol Sharpe

**February 8, 2026 –5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

Altar Care: **Open**  
Altar Flowers: **Open**  
Communion Bread: **Open**  
Counters: Lois Albright and Ken Cromwell  
Greeter (8am): Connie Zellers  
Greeter (10:30am): Patty Lehman  
Lay Reader (8am): Rick Homan  
Lay Reader (10:30am): Ken Cromwell  
Bell Ringer (10:30am): Shawn Lehman  
Offering Usher (10:30am): Larry Frazier  
Worship Assistant (10:30am): Scott McAllister

**February 15, 2026 –Transfiguration**

Altar Care: **Open**  
Altar Flowers: **Open**  
Communion Bread: **Open**  
Counters: Carol Sharpe and Evelyn Reeder  
Greeter (8am): Gary Zellers  
Greeter (10:30am): Nancy Shunk  
Lay Reader (8am): Linda Decker Reitz  
Lay Reader (10:30am): Carol Sharpe  
Bell Ringer (10:30am): Jerry Homan  
Offering Usher (10:30am): Shawn Lehman  
Worship Assistant (10:30am): Susan Stover

**February 18, 2026 –Ash Wednesday**

Altar Care: **Open**  
Communion Bread: **Open**  
Greeter (7pm): Nancy Shunk  
Lay Reader (7pm): Scott McAllister  
Offering Usher (7pm): Walt Schluter  
Worship Assistant (7pm): Shawn Lehman

**February 22, 2026 –1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent**

Altar Care: **Open**  
Communion Bread: **Open**  
Counters: Ken Cromwell and Sue Royer  
Greeter (8am): Connie Zellers  
Greeter (10:30am): Patty Lehman  
Lay Reader (8am): Kathy Long  
Lay Reader (10:30am): Barb McAllister  
Bell Ringer (10:30am): Larry Frazier  
Offering Usher (10:30am): Scott McAllister  
Worship Assistant (10:30am): Shawn Lehman

**March 1, 2026 –2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

Altar Care: **Open**  
Communion Bread: **Open**  
Counters: Ellen Hug and Barb McAllister  
Greeter (8am): Linda Decker Reitz  
Greeter (10:30am): Jerry Homan  
Lay Reader (8am): Kelly Moran  
Lay Reader (10:30am): Jack Sharer  
Bell Ringer (10:30am): Shawn Lehman  
Offering Usher (10:30am): Walt Schluter  
Worship Assistant (10:30am): Carol Sharpe

  
Thank you  
VOLUNTEERS!



The regular meetings are held 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month at 7:00 pm. The next meeting is **February 9th**, a Zoom link is available if needed. Council Executive Committee communicates by the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the Month regarding agenda items and information as needed. Please contact the Council Executive Committee if you have questions, Scott McAllister (President), Rick Homan (Vice President), Carol Sharpe (Secretary), Jack Sharer (Treasurer) and Pr. Becky Horn.

**Council Members for 2026:** Scott McAllister, President (27), Rick Homan, Vice-President (27), Carol Sharpe, Secretary (26), Jack Sharer, Treasurer, Gary Zellers (27), Lois Albright (25), Todd Fetterolf (25), Larry Frazier (25), **Open (25)**, Alice Cromwell (26), Evelyn Reeder (26), Susan Stover (26) and Jerry Homan (27) \*The numbers in parenthesis indicates the year their term is complete.

**Council Election Results will be included in February bulletins and the March Newsletter.**

**St. Luke Cemetery Association Representatives**—Michele Brown, Brian Long and Walt Schluter

**Centre Hall Council of Churches** – The next meeting is scheduled for February 4<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 am at St. Luke Lutheran Church. St. Luke is the host for 2026, which means we will be holding the Lenten Wednesday evening worship services starting with Ash Wednesday on February 18, at 7:00 pm.



**Looking ahead...**Please note that if you have news or articles for the **MARCH 2026** issue of the St. Luke Newsletter, please submit them to the church office **by THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026.**





**Pastor's Office Hours** – Pastor Becky is normally in the church office on **Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 9-11am**, but these hours may vary as needed. If you need to reach Pr. Becky outside of the office, please feel free to call or text her at 215-208-5535 and please leave your name and a message. She will return your call or text as soon as possible. You may also email her at [StLuke364PastorBecky@gmail.com](mailto:StLuke364PastorBecky@gmail.com).

**Secretary Office Hours** - The Church Secretary's office hours are normally **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am to Noon**, but these hours may vary as needed. If you need to reach Patty outside of the office, please feel free to call or text her at 814-933-6296 and please leave your name and a message. She will return your call or text as soon as possible. All emails for the secretary should continue to be sent to [StLuke364@gmail.com](mailto:StLuke364@gmail.com).

**St. Luke Contact Numbers:**

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Church Office                       | 814-364-9154 or email at <a href="mailto:StLuke364@gmail.com">StLuke364@gmail.com</a>                             |
| Pastor, Rev. Becky Horn             | 215-208-5535 or email <a href="mailto:StLuke364PastorBecky@gmail.com">StLuke364PastorBecky@gmail.com</a>          |
| Church Secretary, Patty Lehman      | 814-933-6296 or email: <a href="mailto:StLuke364@gmail.com">StLuke364@gmail.com</a>                               |
| Council President, Scott McAllister | 814-364-1285 (h); 814-280-7891(c) or email <a href="mailto:horsedr72@verizon.net">horsedr72@verizon.net</a>       |
| Treasurer, Jack Sharer              | 814-364-1658 of email: <a href="mailto:StLuke16828TreasurerJack@gmail.com">StLuke16828TreasurerJack@gmail.com</a> |
| Music Director, Susan Stover        | 814-349-5173 or email: <a href="mailto:smsgmnastx48@aol.com">smsgmnastx48@aol.com</a>                             |
| St. Luke Mailing Address            | PO Box 331, Centre Hall, PA 16828   |
| St. Luke Website                    | <a href="http://StLukeCentreHall.org">http://StLukeCentreHall.org</a>   |

## February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> Worship 8am & 10:30am – <b>Annual Congregational Meeting &amp; Council Elections following both services</b>  Boy Scout Troop Meeting 4:30-6p	<b>2</b> 	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Prayer Service 10:30-11am in Pr. Becky's Office  Centre Hall Council of Churches Meeting 11:15am-Noon at St. Luke	<b>5</b>     Choir Rehearsal 7pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>       AA Meeting 7pm
<b>8</b> Worship 8am & 10:30am    Boy Scout Troop Meeting 4:30-6p	<b>9</b>    Council Meeting 7pm	<b>10</b> 	<b>11</b> Prayer Service 10:30-11am in Pr. Becky's Office	<b>12</b>     Choir Rehearsal 7pm	<b>13</b>    Cub Scout Den Meetings 6-8pm	<b>14 Valentine's Day</b>   AA Meeting 7pm
<b>15</b> Worship 8am & 10:30am  Adult Sunday School Class 9:15-10am   Boy Scout Troop Meeting 4:30-6p Cub Scout Committee Meeting 6:30-8pm	<b>16</b> 	<b>17</b>  Food Pantry Distribution 1:30-3pm at Grace UMC	<b>18</b> Prayer Service 10:30-11am in Pr. Becky's Office   <b>Community Ash Wednesday Worship 7:00pm at St. Luke</b>  Choir Rehearsal 8pm	<b>19</b> <b>*March Newsletter Deadline</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>       AA Meeting 7pm
<b>22</b> Worship 8am & 10:30am    Boy Scout Troop Meeting 4:30-6p	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Prayer Service 10:30-11am in Pr. Becky's Office  Book Group at Noon at Seven Mountains Winery at Noon  Community Lenten Worship 7:00pm at St. Luke  Choir Rehearsal 8pm	<b>26</b> 	<b>27</b>    Cub Scout Den Meetings 6-8pm	<b>28</b>       AA Meeting 7pm

St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church  
301 North Pennsylvania Ave.  
P. O. Box 331  
Centre Hall, PA 16828

Return Service Requested

*The*  
*St. Luke*  
*Letter*



Mission Statement: Inviting all into relationship with Christ, Church and Community

St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church

Centre Hall, Pennsylvania