

THE ST. LUKE LETTER

December 2023



Dear Siblings in Christ,

When will it end? As we await the celebration of Christ's birth, I keep wondering – when will it end? I'm not talking about the world, for we know not the day or the hour. But when will hate, violence, judgment, harm, when will all the 'bad' things that we as humans have control over end? There isn't a day that goes by that I am not grateful for so much in my life – indeed my very life itself, but how do we turn our gratefulness into love, service, and action?

This of course is only the beginning of ongoing questions, wishes, hopes and prayers. Finding ways to actively live in service to God and neighbor while refraining from judgment or other harm seems like it should be easy. But like so much, it sounds easier than it is to enact. It is easy to get overwhelmed by the suffering in the world and to reflect that each of us are only one person, to question what difference I can make. I recall a story where we can see the difference one person can make. Imagine you are walking down the beach and ahead of you there is someone who keeps bending down, picking something up, and throwing it back in the water. You eventually catch up to them and find they are throwing star fish back into the water. Looking ahead you see an overwhelming amount of star fish and so you ask this person, "You will never be able to make a difference on all of these star fish, so why even bother?" The person picks up another star fish, throws it into the water and replies, "I made a difference for that one." There are many similar stories out there for us to turn to when we feel overwhelmed or defeated, but we do make a difference. Maybe the difference we make seems small in this world, but for each person we are kind to and show love to, for no reason other than we should, we make a difference. I pray that as we come through Advent to Christmas we see the importance of each one, of each one of us, of each person, animal, or thing we love and care for. May you be blessed this season with God's love, peace, joy, hope, and inspiration to continue to make a difference, one moment at a time.

Yours In Christ,
Pr. Becky Horn



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)



In December, the Congregation is invited to join in an Advent Celebration on Sunday, December 3rd during the extended Sunday School Hour from 8:45-10am to celebrate the 1st Day of Advent. We will have treats, make crafts and decorate the Fellowship Hall Christmas Tree. Bring a friend or friends! All ages are welcome!

Our Sunday School Classes will also meet on Sunday, December 17th from 9:15am-10am.

Join Us at
Advent Wednesday Worship



December 6, 13 & 20 - Advent Wednesday Worship - During the season of Advent, we will have Wednesday evening worship at St. Luke at 7:00pm. The Advent Wednesday Evening sermon theme will be based off of *An Unlikely Advent* by Rachel Billups.



The St. Luke Choir invites all individuals of the congregation to come out and help us make a beautiful noise to the Lord in celebration of Advent and Christmas! In December, Choir rehearsals will take place on Wednesday evenings, December 6, 13 & 20, following the Advent worship service.



December 24th - Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services - This year Christmas Eve is on Sunday, December 24th. St. Luke will gather for worship at 3:00pm and 5:30pm for Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services. Thank you for sharing this information and inviting others to join you as we celebrate the Nativity of Our Savior, Emmanuel, Christ. The 3:00pm service will also be live streamed and recorded. Please note, that we will not be holding Sunday morning worship services.



On Sunday, December 31st, St. Luke will have an 8am and 10:30am worship service where the congregation will enjoy seasonal scripture and sing carols.



CENTRE HALL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS

Friday Dec. 8th - Sunday Dec. 10th

- ~ Friday 7:00pm - Free Tree Lighting at St. Luke Lutheran Church with cookies and hot chocolate
- ~ Saturday 9:00am-1:00pm - Free Children's Crafts & Breakfast/Lunch at Grace United Methodist Church (UMC)
 - Special guests: 2023 Grange Fair Queen Teaghan Bair, Alternate Fair Queen Jaylene Everhardt, and Dairy Maid Frances Weaver
 - Breakfast & Lunch provided by the Grace UMC Men's Group
- ~ Saturday 10:00am-2:00pm - Free Make & Take Craft at the Centre Hall Library & Cookies
 - See what Holiday books and DVDs they can offer!
- ~ Saturday 10:00am-12:00pm - Free Senior Reindeer Games Trinity United Church of Christ (UCC)
 - For "reindeer" ages 60+
 - Hosted by Penns Valley Grange #158
- ~ Saturday 11:00am-1:00pm - Horse & Carriage Rides in the parking lot of The Express. - Special Guest: Santa Claus
 - \$3.00 for age 11 or under, \$5.00 for age 12+
 - Carriage can carry 5 children & 5 adults
- ~ Saturday at 3:00pm - Penns Valley Men's Chorus Free Concert at Trinity UCC with light refreshments to follow
- ~ Saturday 5:30pm - Penns Valley High School Chamber Choir will hold a Free Concert at Trinity UCC
- ~ Sunday 2:00-3:00pm - Jay Vonada's "Jazz Christmas Concert" at St. Luke
- ~ Sunday 6:00pm- Free Living Nativity Grace UMC
- ~ Sunday 6:30pm - Free Christmas Caroling, meet at Grace UMC
- ~ House Decorating Contest,

Checkout the Facebook Group for more info:
Search "Centre Hall Community Christmas"



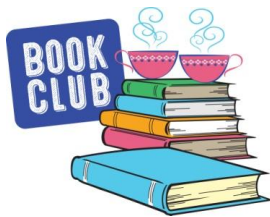


December 8th - Christmas Tree Lighting at St. Luke—St. Luke will begin the Centre Hall Community Christmas Weekend by hosting the Community Christmas Tree Lighting on Friday, December 8th at 7:00pm outside on the corner of Pennsylvania Ave and Church Street. We will sing carols, light the tree and share hot chocolate and cookies with our neighbors. Please consider helping by making cookies or serving hot chocolate and coming to celebrate God’s presence and love at this time of year.

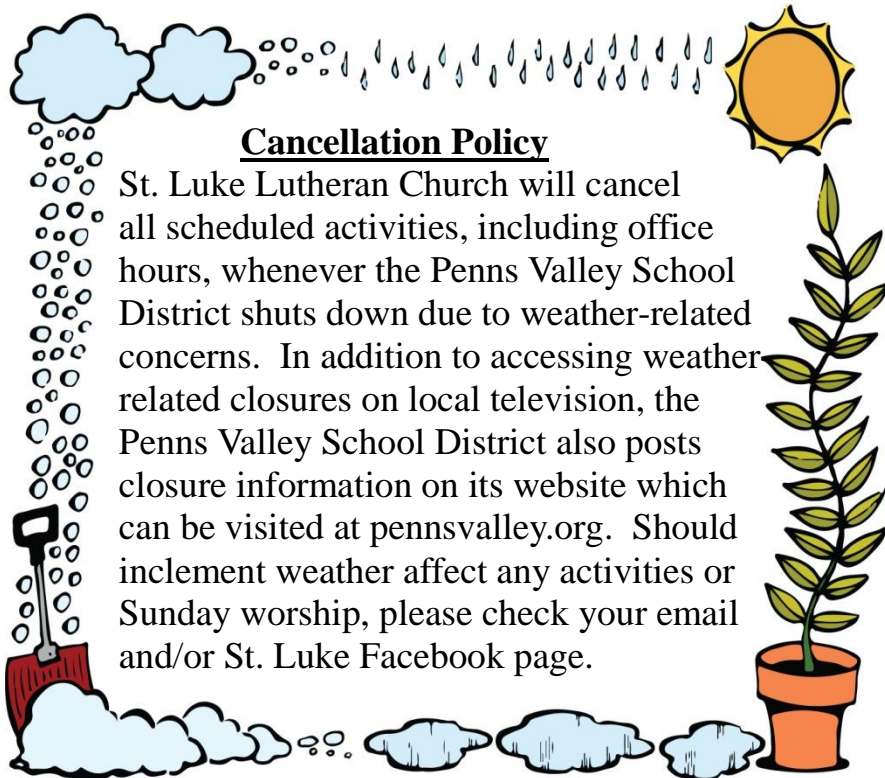
December 8th—Can you make Cookies for Tree Lighting? - If you are able to make cookies for the Christmas Tree Lighting that will take place on Friday, December 8th, please sign up in the narthex. We are looking for 6 people to make 2 dozen cookies each. We are also in need of a couple additional people to help make hot chocolate and set up beginning at 6pm.



December 10th—Jay Vonada Concert at St. Luke—On Sunday, December 10th, Jay Vonada will hold a “Jazz Christmas Concert” at St. Luke from 2-3pm as part of the Centre Hall Community Christmas events.



Book Group will next meet in the **Pastor's Office** on **January 24th at 9:00am**. We will be discussing *The Words We Whisper* by **Mary Ellen Taylor**. You are invited to read and come to chat and discuss this book and help pick out the next book and discussion date.



Cancellation Policy

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. Should inclement weather affect any activities or Sunday worship, please check your email and/or St. Luke Facebook page.

Lectionary Study & Prayer Group



The Lectionary Study and Prayer Group meets weekly on Wednesday mornings at 10:00am in the Social Hall. We discuss the week's lessons and pray for those on our prayer list and those in our hearts.



FOOD PANTRY: The Centre Hall/Potter Food & Fuel Pantry will have their next monthly food distribution on **Tuesday, December 19, 2023**, at Grace United Methodist Church, Centre Hall. Volunteers are packing boxes from **8:00am-10:00 am** and Food Distribution will be from **1:30-3:00 pm**.

Suggested Monthly Donation List for the Food Pantry:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| January - Kleenex | July - Soap |
| February - Canned Milk | August - Individually packaged Toothbrushes |
| March - Toothpaste | September - Shampoo |
| April - Cake Mixes | October - Toilet Paper |
| May - Kitchen Garbage Bags | November - Sandwich Bags |
| June - Paper Towels | December - Dish Detergent |

If you would like to make a donation, please place non-perishable items in the designated Food Pantry Box at St. Luke Lutheran Church on or before **Sunday, December 17, 2023**. The donation box is located in the Narthex (under the coat rack). Volunteers are always needed...to pack boxes at 8am on distribution days or to sign up to unload food when it arrives at Grace Church. If you can help unload food, you will be called the day before the truck arrives. If you would like to make a monetary donation to the Food Pantry, volunteer in any way, or if you have any questions, you may speak with **Bonnie Brown at 814-883-3589**.



Offering Envelopes for 2024 will be ready for pick up on Sunday, December 17, 2023. If you are a St. Luke member who would like to begin receiving offering envelopes in 2024, please contact Patty Lehman in the Church Office at 814-364-9154 or email Patty at StLuke364@gmail.com by Tuesday, December 12th. Just a reminder that you are considered a voting member if you have officially joined the membership of St. Luke, communed and made a contribution of record since January 1st of the prior year by using offering envelopes, writing a check, writing your name on an envelope with your offering

inside, or donating online through VANCO from our church website at <http://StLukeCentreHall.org>. Also, please note that a tax statement is only prepared for those who use offering envelopes or donate online through VANCO. If you have any questions, please speak with Patty Lehman.



UPDATE



It's that time of year to begin work on updates to the 2024 St. Luke Directory. If you or a loved one has made a change in their email, telephone number or address, please notify the Church Office by calling 814-364-9154 or emailing StLuke364@gmail.com as soon as possible. Thank you for keeping us up-to-date! New directories are handed out at the Annual Meeting in January.



Looking Ahead...On Sunday, January 21, 2024, St. Luke will hold a Joint Worship Service at 9:30am followed by St. Luke's Annual Congregational Meeting. Annual Reports will be available in the narthex for member review by the Friday prior to the meeting. Please note: Council members and Committee Chairs should have their reports to Patty by Thursday, January 11, 2024.



Prayer Concerns

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



The Family and Friends of Patty Thompson
Bob & Betty Ishler...covid
Family and Friends of Steve Welch
Harry Koch...knee replacement
Ken Cromwell...recov. knee replacement
Mike Moyer...health concerns
Martha Grove...fall and hip replacement
Justin Ryan...health concerns
Carolyn Wimer...recovery from knee surgery

Lee Kolos...health concerns
Linda Murphy...health concerns
Family and Friends of Donna Bennett
Craig Weidensaul...brain cancer

Monica Zimmerman...cancer
Nancy Boyle...respiratory issues
Dotti Sauerwein...pain relief/blood clot
Nancy Hawn...lung transplant

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Paul Dietrich...cancer
Greg Bohn...kidney issues
Paulette Smigo...life concerns
Donna Brown...cancer
Jean Bender...myelodysplastic syndrome
Dave Ferree...health concerns
Karen Willar...cancer
Katrina Danley...cancer
Paul & Sandy Larson...health concern
Ukrainian People & the Ukrainian War

Robert Sauerwein...heart & health concerns
Jim & Tanya Evans...health concerns
Marvin Lehman, Jr....health concerns
Eva Gill...kidney failure
Gay Homan...health concerns
Don Rudy...health concerns
Darla Dunlap...cancer
Silas Green...multiple health issues
Those affected by natural disasters
Peace for Israel and the Middle East

Please pray for the Health of our Homebound:

Agnes Homan (448 S. Pennsylvania Ave, Centre Hall, PA 16828...814-364-9189)
Phyllis Kerlin (Juniper Village Wellspring, 610 W Whitehall Rd - Rm 121, State College, PA 16801)
Fred Lohr Jr. (244 S. Pennsylvania Ave., Centre Hall, PA 16828...814-364-9368)
Barbara Mark (4178 Penns Valley Rd, Spring Mills, PA 16875)
Gladys Sampsel (c/o Randy & Julia Long, 165 Reeder Rd, Spring Mills, PA 16875)
Jean 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. -Updated 11/30/23

St. Luke Contact Numbers:

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

THANKS BE TO GOD FOR OUR WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

December 3, 2023 - First Sunday of Advent

Altar Care: **Open**
Altar Flowers: Shawn and Patty Lehman
Bell Ringer (10:30am): Walt Schluter
Communion Bread: **Open**
Counters: Lois Albright and Susan Stover
Greeter (8am): Linda Decker-Reitz
Greeter (10:30am): Nancy Shunk
Lay Reader (8am): Kathy Long
Lay Reader (10:30am): Deb Frazier
Offering Usher (10:30am): Scott McAllister
Worship Assistant (10:30am): Carol Sharpe

December 10, 2023 - Second Sunday of Advent

Altar Care: Lois Albright
Altar Flowers: Jack Sharer
Bell Ringer (10:30am): Larry Frazier
Communion Bread: Lois Albright
Counters: Carol Sharpe and Shari Welch
Greeter (8am): Gary Zellers
Greeter (10:30am): Patty Lehman
Lay Reader (8am): Kelly Moran
Lay Reader (10:30am): Scott McAllister
Offering Usher (10:30am): Larry Frazier
Worship Assistant (10:30am): Shawn Lehman

December 17, 2023 - Third Sunday of Advent

Altar Care: **Open**
Altar Flowers: Poinsettias
Bell Ringer (10:30am): Shawn Lehman
Communion Bread: **Open**
Counters: Ken Cromwell and Deb Frazier
Greeter (8am): Linda Decker-Reitz
Greeter (10:30am): Patty Lehman
Lay Reader (8am): Michele Shawver
Lay Reader (10:30am): Susan Stover
Offering Usher (10:30am): Patty Lehman
Worship Assistant (10:30am): Scott McAllister

December 24, 2023 - Christmas Eve 3pm & 5:30pm

Altar Care: **Open**
Altar Flowers: Poinsettias
Bell Ringer (3pm): Walt Schluter
Bell Ringer (5:30pm): Larry Frazier
Communion Bread: **Open**
Counters: Susan Stover and Carol Sharpe
Greeter (3pm): Nancy Shunk
Greeter (5:30pm): Connie Zellers
Lay Reader (3pm): Linda Decker-Reitz
Lay Reader (5:30pm): Barb McAllister
Offering Usher (3pm): Walt Schluter
Offering Usher (5:30pm): Larry Frazier
Worship Assistant (3pm): Susan Stover
Worship Assistant (5:30pm): Carol Sharpe

December 31, 2023 - Lessons & Carols

Altar Care: **Open**
Altar Flowers: Poinsettias
Bell Ringer (10:30am): Scott McAllister
Communion Bread: **Open**
Counters: Sue Royer and Deb Frazier
Greeter (8am): Gary Zellers
Greeter (10:30am): Patty Lehman
Lay Reader (8am): Rick Homan
Lay Reader (10:30am): Jack Sharer
Offering Usher (10:30am): Patty Lehman
Worship Assistant (10:30am): Shawn Lehman





DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- Dec. 2 Paul and Betty Deitrich
- 3 Shawn and Patty Lehman
Robert and Betty Ishler
- 17 Gary and Connie Zellers
- 26 Terry and Sherri Corl



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- Dec. 1 Kathy Mothersbaugh
Pat Strouse
- 2 George Garman
Peter Theodoros
- 4 Nancy Shunk
- 6 Jillian Anderson
- 7 Evelyn Reeder
- 8 Jessica Roth
- 9 Maggie Delaney
Shawn Kurtz
Brad Noll
- 12 Eryn Dutrow
- 13 Brandie O'Hara
- 14 Ken Strouse
- 15 Agnes Homan
- 16 Linda Dutrow
Amy Homan
- 17 Shirley Sharer
Kane Parsons
- 18 Nora Reeder
Pastor Becky Horn
- 19 Piper Crater
- 21 Ian Brown
- 22 Sumner Kessinger

December Birthdays Continued...

- 23 Judy Bowles
- 25 **JESUS**
- 26 Charlotte Delaney
- 27 Lizzy Horn
- 28 Todd Fetterolf
- 29 Charles Musser
Jackson Roth



We are now taking orders for Christmas Poinsettias. Order forms and special envelopes are available in Sunday bulletins and/or in the narthex. We will have red and white poinsettias available and the cost will be \$9.00 each. The order deadline will be Sunday, December 10th. Poinsettias will decorate the church beginning on December 17th and may be taken home following Christmas Eve worship services on December 24th. Checks may be made payable to St. Luke with "Poinsettia" in the memo line. When completed, order forms and payment may be placed in the special poinsettia envelope and placed in the offering plate.

Centre Hall Council of Churches – There will not be a meeting in December. Please plan to attend the Centre Hall Community Christmas Events that will be taking place December 8th-10th. The next meeting is scheduled for January 3, 2024 at 11:00 am at Grace UMC, in the Library.



St. Luke's next scheduled Council Meeting is December 11, 2023 at 7:00pm. The regular meets are held 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00 pm, Zoom is available for those who are unable to attend in person. Council Executive Committee meets the 1st Thursday of the Month at 6:00 pm as needed. If you are interested in attending, please email Pr. Becky, Pres. Scott McAllister, V.P. Shawn Lehman, or Sec. Carol Sharpe for login information.

Council Members for 2023: Scott McAllister (24) President, Shawn Lehman (23) Vice President, Carol Sharpe (23), Secretary, Jack Sharer, Treasurer, Alice Cromwell (23), Dawn Holsopple (23), Rick Homan (24), Shari Welch (24), Gary Zellers (24), Lois Albright (25), Todd Fetterolf (25), Larry Frazier (25) and **Open** (25).

***The numbers in parenthesis indicates the year their term is complete.**

Council Elections



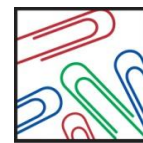
Council Elections will be held on Sunday, December 3rd at both services. Our nominees are Alice Cromwell, Evelyn Reeder, Carol Sharpe and Susan Stover. Write-ins are welcome too.

Cemetery Association Representatives—Michele Brown, Brian Long and Walt Schluter



Looking ahead...Please note that if you have news or articles for the **January 2024** issue of the St. Luke Newsletter, please submit them to the church office **by Tuesday, December 19, 2023, due to the holiday schedule.**

Church Secretary office hours are normally Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am to 3pm. If you need to reach Patty outside of office hours, please call or text her at 814-933-6296. **No Office Hours December 26 or December 28. Normal office hours resume on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.**



Office Hours

YOU TUBE LIVE LINKS

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

https://www.youtube.com/@StLukeLutheran_CentreHall/live



2023 IHS WISHING WELL CAMPAIGN - InterFaith Human Services (IHS) has begun their 2023 Wishing Well Campaign. The Wishing Well collection will take place from now through Saturday, December 23rd. Physical Wishing Wells will be located at Meyer Dairy and the downtown Waffle Shop on December weekends through December 23rd. St. Luke will ring the bell at Meyer Dairy on Saturday, December 23rd from 9am through 5pm. You may also make online donations through the virtual Wishing Well which can be found at interfaithhumanservices.org/wishing-well/ This year the IHS Board of Directors has issued a match challenge in which they will match the first \$9,800 that is donated online through the virtual Wishing Well. Donate today and double your gift!

A CHRIST-CENTERED CHRISTMAS ADVENT READING PLAN

Explore the true meaning of Christmas as you travel through God's Word. Discover God's promises he fulfilled through the birth of His only Son, the **KING OF KINGS.**

1 Isaiah 7:14	2 Isaiah 9:6-7	3 Malachi 3:1	4 Micah 5:2-4	5 Luke 1:5-7	6 Luke 1:10-15	7 Luke 1:18-22	8 Luke 1:24-25
14 Luke 2:15-20	13 Luke 2:8-14	12 Luke 2:6-7	11 Luke 2:1-5	10 Luke 1:30-33	9 Luke 1:26-29	9 Luke 1:26-29	8 Luke 1:24-25
15 Matthew 1:18-21	16 Matthew 1:22-25	17 Matthew 2:1-3	18 Matthew 2:4-6	19 Matthew 2:7-9	20 Matthew 2:10-12	21 Romans 15:13	21 Romans 15:13
23 Philippians 2:8-11	22 Galatians 4:4-5	24 James 1:16-18	25 John 3:16	25 John 3:16	25 John 3:16	25 John 3:16	25 John 3:16

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 	2 AA Meeting 7pm
3 Advent 1 Worship 8am & 10:30am - Council Elections Advent Celebration during extended Sunday School Hour 8:45am-10am. All Congregation Welcome! Boy Scout Troop Meeting 4:30-6pm	4 	5 OFFICE HOURS 10am-3pm	6 Lectionary Study & Prayer Group 10:00am Advent Worship 7pm Choir Rehearsal 8pm	7 OFFICE HOURS 10am-3pm	8 Centre Hall Community Christmas Weekend Christmas Tree Lighting at St. Luke 7:00pm Cub Scout Den Meetings 6-8pm	9 Centre Hall Community Christmas Weekend  AA Meeting 7pm
10 Advent 2 Worship 8am & 10:30am Centre Hall Community Christmas Weekend Jay Vonada Jazz Concert at St. Luke 2-3pm Boy Scout Troop Meeting 4:30-6pm	11 Council Meeting 7:00pm	12 OFFICE HOURS 10am-3pm 	13 Lectionary Study & Prayer Group 10:00am Advent Worship 7pm Choir Rehearsal 8pm	14 OFFICE HOURS 10am-3pm	15	16 AA Meeting 7pm
17 Advent 3 Worship 8am & 10:30am Sunday School Classes 9:15-10am Boy Scout Troop Meeting 4:30-6pm Cub Committee Meeting 6:30-8pm	18	19 OFFICE HOURS 10am-3pm *January Newsletter Deadline Food Pantry Distribution at Grace UMC 1:30-3pm	20 Lectionary Study & Prayer Group 10:00am Advent Worship 7pm Choir Rehearsal 8pm	21 OFFICE HOURS 10am-3pm	22 	23 St. Luke Wishing Well Bell Ringing at Meyer Dairy for IHS 9am-5pm Cub Scout Den Meetings 6-8pm AA Meeting 7pm
24 Advent 4 & Christmas Eve Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Services 3pm (Livestream) and 5:30pm	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS! 	26 NO SET OFFICE HOURS	27	28 NO SET OFFICE HOURS	29	30 AA Meeting 7pm
31 New Year's Eve Worship 8am & 10:30am Lessons & Carols						

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