



THE ST. LUKE LETTER

February 2025

Dear Siblings in Christ,

What does it mean for us as a church and a community to be in "survival mode" instead of "ministry mode"? This question was paraphrased from a recent episode of *Tend: A Bible Podcast* (Season 3, Episode 12), where Pastor Nathan Pile, director of Camp Sequanota, and Pastor Kevin Shock, Assistant to the Bishop of the Allegheny Synod, explore the lectionary text for the upcoming Sunday. In this episode, they focused on 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, where Paul so beautifully describes what love is. The entire episode is worth a listen if you have about an hour to spare. However, for this month's article, I want to reflect on that central question: What does it mean for us as a church and a community to be in survival mode rather than ministry mode?

First, I wonder what comes to mind for you when you hear the term "survival mode." For me, survival mode is a state of being driven by fear and worry. It's about clinging tightly to what we have, afraid of what might be lost or what challenges may arise. It's a mindset that restricts creativity, dampens hope, and often keeps us from imagining new possibilities. In survival mode, we focus inward, conserving resources and energy, sometimes at the expense of outreach and growth.

Now, let's think about "ministry mode." What does that phrase stir within you? For me, ministry mode is centered on love—the kind of love Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 13. It's about stepping forward with hope, guided by Jesus' command to love one another. In ministry mode, we approach decisions and opportunities with faith, creativity, and a willingness to serve. This mindset opens us to God's possibilities and calls us to see the world and our community through the lens of hope and love.

So, here's the heart of the matter: In your honest opinion, which mode do you think our congregation, St. Luke Lutheran Church in Centre Hall, is operating in right now? Are we in survival mode, focused on maintaining what we have? Or are we in ministry mode, actively engaging in love and service, trusting in God's abundance?

This isn't a question to provoke guilt but rather an invitation to reflect. How might we as individuals and as a church shift from survival to ministry mode if we find ourselves stuck? How might God be calling us to embrace hope, love, and creativity in this season of our shared journey?

I encourage you to pray, ponder, and share your thoughts. Let's continue to discern together how we can faithfully embody Christ's love in our community and beyond.

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)



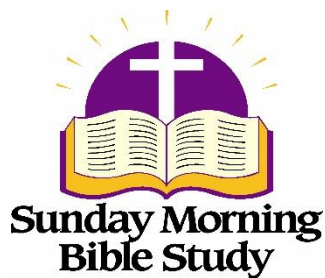
YOU TUBE LIVE LINKS - Sunday Morning Worship via YouTube Live – the 10:30 worship service is available via YouTube Live Stream. Please use the link below from your favorite web browser. The service is also recorded if you are away and would like to watch at a later time.
(either click on the link below, or copy and paste into the search bar)
https://www.youtube.com/@StLukeLutheran_CentreHall/live



Sustain: An Adult Retreat – A weekend retreat at Camp Sequanota on February 21-23, 2025. Using the book *Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life* by Richard Rohr, this retreat seeks to provide adults with a weekend together to engage their faith for the journey of life. If you are interested, please find more information in the Narthex or online at <https://sequanota.com/events/descriptions/>. You can also call the Sequanota Office at: 814-629-6627.



Wednesday Morning Prayer – Wednesday mornings at 10:30 am we gather in the sanctuary for a morning prayer service for about thirty minutes. We will use various prayer services. Each Wednesday music will be provided through our sound system. We hope you will join us as we gather mid-week to refocus our lives on the gift of Christ and the love of God for all the world.



The Adult Sunday School Class will meet on **February 2nd and February 16th from 9:15-10am**. We will resume our study on “Understanding the Cross”.



Our next book is *The Beauty of What Remains* by Steve Leder. We plan to meet and discuss on February 26th at 12:00 pm at Seven Mountains Winery. From the book's flap, "This inspiring and comforting book takes us on a journey through the experience of loss that is fundamental to us all. ...this heartfelt narrative is filled with laughter and tears, the wisdom of millennia and modernity, and, most of all, an unfolding of the profound and simple truth that in loss we gain more than we ever imagined."



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

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 18, 2025**, at Grace United Methodist Church, Centre Hall. Volunteers are packing boxes from **8:00am-11:00 am** and Food Distribution will be from **1:30-3:00 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 16, 2025**. 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

February -Toilet Paper

March – Toothpaste & Individual Toothbrushes

April – Household Cleaners

May - Kitchen Garbage Bags

June - Paper Towels

July – Liquid Hand Soap

August – Laundry Detergent

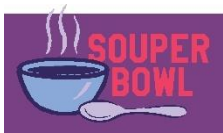
September - Shampoo

October - Toilet Paper

November - Sandwich Bags

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 or Page Gaddis at 814-571-8110, paggad@protonmail.com. You may also speak to Gary Zellers who is the St. Luke Food Pantry representative in 2025. 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 9, 2025**, 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. You may place the donated cans of soup in the collection bin located in the narthex.

***We currently have a total of 107 cans of soup collected.**

PRAYER CONCERNS

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

Evelyn Reeder...kidney stone	Sam Rudy...dialysis
Deb Frazier...recov. ankle replacement	Sabrina Murphy Wert...lung cancer
Darlene Fultz...health concerns	Jim Rearick...health concerns
Jordan Holsopple...health concerns	Carol Smith...cancer
Melody Green...health concerns	Joan Glaser...health concerns
Bev Haines...anxiety issues	Shirley Sharer...health concerns
Robert Sauerwein...hospitalization	Kenzie Jones...kidney function/health
Greg Garner...health concerns	Ron Holsopple...health concerns
Brad Way...health concerns	Freda Schluter...health concerns
Terry Brown...cancer	Gary Homan...Parkinson's
Sally Shermer...health issues	Ernie Kirsch...Parkinson's
Nancy Wintersteen...recovery from fall	Dotti Sauerwein...healing and strength
Sherri Ard...cancer	Jim Sheaffer...health concerns

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Greg Bohn...kidney issues	Dave Ferree...health concerns
Jim & Tanya Evans...health concerns	Paulette Smigo...life concerns
Jean Bender...myelodysplastic syndrome	Don Rudy...health concerns
Karen Willar...cancer	Eva Gill...kidney failure
Silas Green...multiple health issues	Paul & Sandy Larson...health concern
Nancy Boyle...respiratory issues	Lee Kolos...health concerns
Bob & Betty Ishler...health concerns	Mike Burlew—ALS
Mike Moyer...health concerns	Paul "Fox" Dietrich...health concerns
Dan Berkowitz...recov. from heart surgery	Tara Homan...recovery from stroke
Carol Jean Lehman...health concerns	Pr. Russ Sauerwein...health concerns

Please pray for the Health of our Homebound:

Agnes Homan (464 S. Pennsylvania Ave, Centre Hall, PA 16828...814-364-9189)
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)
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.**

-Updated 1/21/25



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.

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

**February 2, 2025 – 4th Sunday after
Epiphany**

Altar Care: Todd Fetterolf
Altar Flowers: **Open**
Bell Ringer (10:30am): Walt Schluter
Communion Bread: Alice Cromwell
Counters: Susan Stover and Lois Albright
Greeter (8am): Gary Zellers
Greeter (10:30am): Patty Lehman
Lay Reader (8am): Linda Decker Reitz
Lay Reader (10:30am): Susan Stover
Offering Usher (10:30am): Shawn Lehman
Worship Assistant (10:30am): Scott McAllister

**February 9, 2025 – 5th Sunday after
Epiphany**

Altar Care: **Open**
Altar Flowers: **Open**
Bell Ringer (10:30am): Larry Frazier
Communion Bread: **Open**
Counters: Carol Sharpe and Barb McAllister
Greeter (8am): Connie Zellers
Greeter (10:30am): Nancy Shunk
Lay Reader (8am): Michele Shawver
Lay Reader (10:30am): Jack Sharer
Offering Usher (10:30am): Scott McAllister
Worship Assistant (10:30am): Susan Stover

**February 16, 2025 – 6th Sunday after
Epiphany**

Altar Care: **Open**
Altar Flowers: **Open**
Bell Ringer (10:30am): Shawn Lehman
Communion Bread: **Open**
Counters: Shari Welch and Susan Stover
Greeter (8am): Linda Decker-Reitz
Greeter (10:30am): **Open**
Lay Reader (8am): Rick Homan
Lay Reader (10:30am): Barb McAllister
Offering Usher (10:30am): Walt Schluter
Worship Assistant (10:30am): Carol Sharpe

**February 23, 2025 – 7th Sunday after
Epiphany**

Altar Care: **Open**
Altar Flowers: **Open**
Bell Ringer (10:30am): Walt Schluter
Communion Bread: **Open**
Counters: Carol Sharpe and Lois Albright
Greeter (8am): Gary Zellers
Greeter (10:30am): Patty Lehman
Lay Reader (8am): Kathy Long
Lay Reader (10:30am): Carol Sharpe
Offering Usher (10:30am): Scott McAllister
Worship Assistant (10:30am): Shawn Lehman

**March 2, 2025 – Transfiguration of Our
Lord**

Altar Care: **Open**
Altar Flowers: **Open**
Bell Ringer (10:30am): Larry Frazier
Communion Bread: **Open**
Counters: Ken Cromwell and Deb Frazier
Greeter (8am): Linda Decker-Reitz
Greeter (10:30am): Nancy Shunk
Lay Reader (8am): Kelly Moran
Lay Reader (10:30am): Ken Cromwell
Offering Usher (10:30am): Shawn Lehman
Worship Assistant (10:30am): Scott McAllister



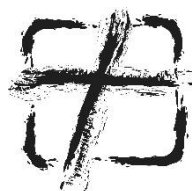
**Fellowship
Committee**

The Congregational Relations Committee will meet on Tuesday, **February 4th** at 11:00am in the kitchen. We invite anyone who would like to help us think of some fellowship ideas for 2025 to please join us.



**Choir
Rehearsal**

Choir rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary.



Looking ahead to Lent:
Midweek Lenten Wednesday Worship Services will be held on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm at Trinity UCC beginning with Ash Wednesday on March 5, 2025.



- 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



St. Luke Congregation,
Thank you for all the cards sent following
Jean's passing.

Bob Smeltzer
Linda and Mike Sheaffer



Dear Friends,
Thank you for your recent gift of \$200.00 to
Lutheran World Relief. I can't wait to see whose
life will be changed by your recent gift. Thank you
for your generosity!

Warm Regards,
Ambassador Daniel V. Speckhard

(This is a small excerpt from a letter posted on the
narthex bulletin board.)

1/19/2005

To Our St. Luke Family,
Thank you for the support to
help our family during this time
of trial. The prayers of so many
is what's keeping us all going.



Everyone asks how Robert is doing so I thought I
would try to update you. Robert has had an
extremely rough time. Little did we understand the
process to a heart transplant. It seems its one step
forward and two steps back (as the doctors say
"baby steps". Robert needed to be sick enough for
a heart transplant but needs to be well enough to get
on the list before we can even think of getting a
heart in order to survive the surgery. So far, he has
been denied twice so he is still fighting daily to
improve in order to have his name put on the list.

He is now breathing on his own but is having
trouble with expelling carbon dioxide. The pump in
his heart is working well and the external pump
(ECMO) is just being used as a backup. His lungs
have been affected from all the intubation and he
now has a tracheotomy, which we hope will come
out in the next couple weeks. Yesterday, his 74th
day in the hospital, with the aid of the nursing staff,
he was able to sit on the edge of the bed for the first
time. This week the plan is to get him up and
moving (a necessity for him to move forward). The
long hospital stay has taken a toll on his entire body
and now he has to work on getting muscles toned,
voice muscles back so he can communicate
verbally, and lungs strengthened. It's our hope he
can turn the corner soon. Keep those prayers
coming!

He has a pump attached to the bottom of the heart
with a "driveline" that is now attached to batteries
outside the body to keep the heart running until a
heart is available. Pray for Russ, Dotti and Mark
who have been trained to take care of these things
when he comes home because he will have to be
connected to power 24/7.

What a joy it is to receive your prayers and support
as we face many challenges ahead. We constantly
remind ourselves "God's in Control" and we know
Robert's in God's hands. God Bless
all of you!

Thank you so Much,
Russ & Dotti





The regular meetings are held 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00 pm. The next meeting is **February 10th** and Zoom is available. Council Executive Committee communicates by the 1st 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 Officers remain the same in 2025.

Council Members for 2025: Scott McAllister (27), Rick Homan (27), Carol Sharpe (26), Jack Sharer, 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.

Centre Hall Council of Churches –The next meeting is scheduled for **February 5th at 11:15 am at Trinity UCC.**

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



Looking ahead...Please note that if you have news or articles for the **MARCH 2025** issue of the St. Luke Newsletter, please submit them to the church office **by Thursday, February 20, 2025.**

Church Office Hours—Patty is in the Church Office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00am to 2:00pm.







Soup Sale Fundraiser for Food Pantry—Bob Boozer of the Centre Hall/Penns Valley Food Pantry is seeking help to make soup for 2 days in March prior to a Soup Sale Fundraiser that will benefit the Food Pantry. There is still much planning to do, but the initial plan is to hold the sale sometime in March. If anyone from St. Luke may be interested in helping to make soup, please reach out to Bob Boozer at gracechfpf@gmail.com and let him know that you are interested in helping to make soup for the fundraiser and provide him with your contact information so that you will receive future informational details.

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>

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<u>1</u>
<p><u>2</u> Worship 8am & 10:30am</p> <p>Adult Sunday School 9:15 -10am in Fellowship Hall</p> <p>Boy Scout Troop Meeting 4:30-6pm</p>	<p><u>3</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">God is LOVE. <small>1 JOHN 4:19</small></p> 	<p><u>4</u> OFFICE HOURS 10am-2pm</p> <p>Congregational Relations Committee Meeting 11am in the kitchen</p>	<p><u>5</u> Wednesday Morning Prayer 10:30-11am</p> <p>Centre Hall Council of Churches Meeting 11:15am at Trinity UCC</p>	<p><u>6</u> OFFICE HOURS 10am-2pm</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm</p>		<u>8</u> AA Meeting 7pm
<p><u>9</u> Worship 8am & 10:30am</p> <p>*Last Day for "Soup"-er Bowl Donations</p> <p>Boy Scout Troop Meeting 4:30-6pm</p>	<p><u>10</u></p> <p>Council Meeting 7pm</p>	<p><u>11</u> OFFICE HOURS 10am-2pm</p> <p>Sewing Group at Bonnie Brown's</p>	<p><u>12</u> Wednesday Morning Prayer 10:30-11am</p>	<p><u>13</u> OFFICE HOURS 10am-2pm</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm</p>	<p><u>14</u> Happy Valentine's Day!</p>  <p>Cub Scout Den Meetings 6-8pm</p>	<u>15</u> AA Meeting 7pm
<p><u>16</u> Worship 8am & 10:30am</p> <p>Adult Sunday School 9:15 -10am in Fellowship Hall</p> <p>*Last Day for Donations prior to February Food Pantry Distribution</p> <p>Boy Scout Troop Meeting 4:30-6pm Cub Scout Committee Meeting 6:30-8pm</p>	<p><u>17</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">God demonstrates his own love for us... <small>1 JOHN 4:19</small></p> 	<p><u>18</u> OFFICE HOURS 10am-2pm</p> <p>Food Pantry at Grace UMC Packing boxes begins at 8:00am and Distribution takes place from 1:30-3pm</p>	<p><u>19</u> Wednesday Morning Prayer 10:30-11am</p>	<p><u>20</u> OFFICE HOURS 10am-2pm</p> <p>*March Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm</p>		<u>22</u> AA Meeting 7pm
<p><u>23</u> Worship 8am & 10:30am</p> <p>Boy Scout Troop Meeting 4:30-6pm</p>	<p><u>24</u></p>	<p><u>25</u> OFFICE HOURS 10am-2pm</p>	<p><u>26</u> Wednesday Morning Prayer 10:30-11am</p>	<p><u>27</u> OFFICE HOURS 10am-2pm</p> <p>Choir Rehearsal 7:00pm</p>	<p><u>28</u></p>  <p>Cub Scout Den Meetings 6-8pm</p>	

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