

The Messenger

Volume XLVII ~ Issue 9 ~ September 2026

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church

417 N. Seventh Street, Allentown, PA 18102

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www.StLukesLutheranAllentown.org ~ <https://www.facebook.com/StLukesLutheranAllentown>

Sunday Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.

Interim Pastor: Rev. Richard Mathisen 215-643-9109 richard.a.mathisen@gmail.com

Pastor's drop-in office hours: Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Other times by appointment.

Office Secretary: Lee Friedman/Office hours: Monday-Friday 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Outreach Coordinator: Pr. Dr. Genie Watson 484-761-2770 outreach@stlukesluth.org

Music Director: Ms. Andrea Berntsen

Sexton: Mrs. Beth Hickman

Pastor's Message

September Re-start!

A blessed and relaxing Summer to all of you, I hope! Now we need to reactivate ourselves for a busy Fall season!

Prayer Ribbon Sunday, September 6. On this first Sunday of the month, we will dedicate the Prayer Ribbons which have been tied to our fence, knowing that each prayer ribbon has important meaning to the person who tied it to our fence.

Liturgy Changes. We will begin in September to use the Nicene Creed on the first Sunday of each month, with the use of the Apostles' Creed on the other Sundays. We will also use the traditional version of the Lord's Prayer on the first Sunday of each month, as we continue to use the contemporary version on other Sundays.

Harvest Home Sunday, September 20th. We will celebrate Harvest Home on Sunday, September 20th. This is always an important part of our ministry!

Special Service September 27th for Redeemer Lutheran's 100th Anniversary. Because of Redeemer Lutheran's 100th Anniversary Celebration on September 27th, we will close our church on that Sunday and honor this anniversary by worshipping

with the other four A-town Bundle churches at Redeemer Lutheran, 802 N. 19th Street. Our newly-elected bishop, Bishop Jennifer Dee, will be the preacher. Please try to join us if possible!

A-town Bundle Entire Bible Study. On Wednesday, September 14th, I will begin a nine-week Entire Bible Study at Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 Hamilton St. This is intended by the A-town Bundle to be an opportunity to continue the process of getting to know the members of other Bundle churches, for those able to attend. See the A-town Bundle Newsletter (attached) for details!

September Renewal. September is always a month of renewal for the church, after the many distractions (and relaxations!) of the Summer. For many individuals and families it is the beginning of a new year of studies. Let us find a way to re-invigorate ourselves for our important work in Allentown's center city!

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Richard Mathisen

Save
the date!

8th Ward Neighborhood
Group

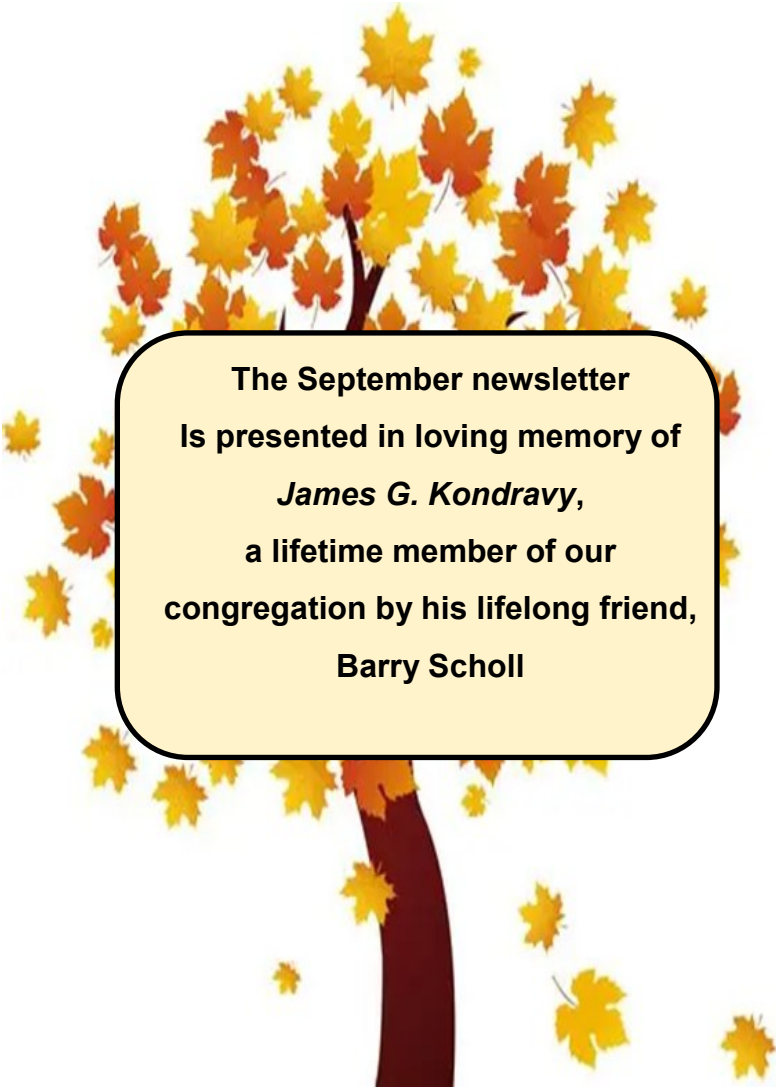
And St. Luke's

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Saturday, October 17th

More info. to follow!

Profits will be split
between the 8th Ward
Group and money needed
for the Hygiene Station



The September newsletter
Is presented in loving memory of
James G. Kondravy,
a lifetime member of our
congregation by his lifelong friend,
Barry Scholl

Council Highlights:

PROPERTY:

- We need to hire our own electrician for the organ refurbishment. Gerger needs to provide information to the electrical contractor. The electrical pricing is unknown at this time.
- Brian suggested we have the baby grand piano in the Fellowship Hall tuned. Marty will put it on the Worship and Music Committee agenda. This has been completed.

OTHER:

- Marty officiated the graveside service for Jackie Gehringer and attended the luncheon. Kathy Patterson will send notes to the family from the congregation.
- Marty visited Ruth Brinker following the death of her daughter, Darlene Stettler.

Vacation Bible School 2026



Trick or Treat Night

Please donate candy to Allentown's Trick or Treat Night. Members from St. Luke's will once again be out in front to give candy to the neighborhood children on the last day of October. Please bring donations to church.

Deadline is: Sunday, October 25th.



HARVEST HOME

We will be celebrating Harvest Home Sunday on September 20th. We are again collecting non-perishable food items throughout the month of September and also monetary donations to help fight food insecurity here in Allentown. Our donations will be delivered to the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank at the beginning of October. It has been our longstanding tradition to celebrate this special Sunday by giving thanks for all the blessings we have received and sharing them with those less fortunate. Please give as generously as you can!



Sunday, October 4th commemorates St. Francis of Assisi and is when many congregations have Pet Blessing Events.

For St. Luke's, we'd like to ask you to send in pictures of your pets which we will share with everyone at Coffee Hour that day. Depending on the volume, we'd like to share with everyone in October's volume of *The Messenger*! Please send them to office@stlukesluth.org

If you only have a printed picture, you can bring it or send it to the office and Lee can scan it for you! Please submit your pictures no later than **September 25th!**

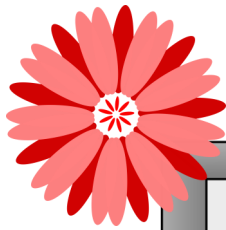
Financials as of July 31, 2026

Income	11,009.00
Expenses	(11,037.00)

Roof Fund Loans as of July 31, 2026

Memorial Fund Loans

North Roof	16,000.00
South Turret Roof	15,955.00
Elevator Addition Roo	10,000.00
Apartment Turret Roo	5,000.00
Apartment Roof	17,000.00
Loan Repay	(20,470.00)
Balance	43,485.00



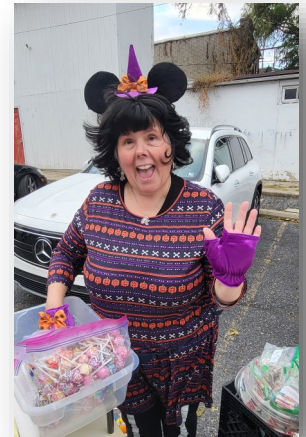
FINANCIAL PICTURE

Trunk or Treat

Tuesday, October 27th Time 5-7PM

Sign-ups are open for Trunk or Treat!

Please sign-up on the sheet at the back of
the Church or email Lee at
office@stlukesluth.org



**We will take any candy you
would like to donate.**

Thank You!!!

(pictures from last year's
Trunk or Treat)



Blessings on Your Birthday!

SEPTEMBER 5: David M. Mayers (Carol's husband)

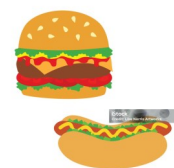
SEPTEMBER 7: Dennis M. Miller (Linda's son)



Have we missed anyone? If you wish to be added to our Birthday List, please call the church office or contact Kathy Patterson.



We Had a Picnic!



On August 16th, we held our annual picnic in the Fellowship Hall. We enjoyed lots of good food and a special time of fellowship. Thank you to everyone for all of the wonderful dishes you brought to share. As usual, there was a smorgasbord of food to choose from to compliment the hot dogs and hamburgers that were grilled to perfection for us by Beth Hickman. Our covered dish events at St. Luke's are second to none! Special thanks to Corliss Bachman for again making her fruit skewers which look so pretty and taste so great! Many thanks to Debbie Skinner for calling numerous games of Bingo until all of the prizes were won.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED IN ANY WAY WITH THE PICNIC PREPARATIONS AND CLEAN-UP AFTERWARDS!





Are you aware of our ART Studio Wednesdays – whether you are an experienced artist or just have an interest, please come join us for ART Studio!

Wednesdays, 1:00 to 2:30pm
Fellowship Hall



The ribbon ministry is still in motion.

Every 1st Sunday of the month during the 10:30 am service there will be prayer over the ribbons. If anyone is able to help cut ribbons, please contact Lee at office@stlukesluth.org or reach out to the Pastor.

Lay Ministers September 2026				
Date	Offering Collector	Scripture Reader	Worship Assistant	Communion Assistant
9/6/26	P. Engler	K. Patterson	L. Weaver	M. Westman
9/13/26	B. Engler	P. Engler	C. Bachman	J. Zimmerman
9/20/26	K. Baker	K. Baker	P. Engler	L. Weaver
9/27/26	R. Patterson	M. Tucker-Morgan	B. Mathisen	M. Westman

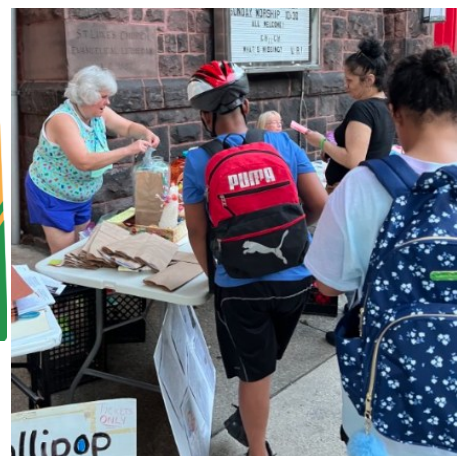
ST. LUKE'S MISSION STATEMENT: St. Luke's is a community of God's people centered around the Gospel and empowered by God's Spirit to be Jesus' disciples now. The Lord calls us to be channels through which His love and acceptance can flow to others. Using our varied gifts, we commit ourselves as a congregation and individuals to be God's presence to our community in both word and deed.



Family Fun Night



We are always looking for old photos! Please send them in at any time!



Newsletter

Christ Lutheran
Redeemer Lutheran
St. John's Lutheran
St. Luke's Lutheran
St. Timothy Lutheran



Our Values, Mission, and Vision

On June 28, our Bundle and its members gathered at St. John's Lutheran to share lunch and hear what we have learned from the previous four gatherings and through the work of our Exploratory Team.

Values:

- Rooted in God's love
- Honest relationships
- Sent to serve

Mission:

to live as compassionate neighbors

Vision:

be a community powered by the Spirit

Tagline:

we encounter God

Guiding Statement

Rooted in God's love, in the A-town Bundle we draw people into honest relationships and are sent to serve, living as compassionate neighbors in the world to create a community powered by the Spirit, so that all may encounter God.

Celebrating 100 Years of Ministry

Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer was founded in the fall of 1926, just one year after the Vestry of Christ Lutheran Church voted unanimously to purchase land at 19th & Washington Streets. Now, 100 years later, we have the opportunity to celebrate alongside our ministry partners and friends at Redeemer Lutheran!

A combined worship service will be held on **Sunday, September 27, at 10:15 AM**. Incoming Bishop Jennifer Dee will be preaching and presiding. If you wish to participate as a **singer in the combined choir**, [please enter your contact info here](#). A rehearsal will be held Wednesday, September 23 at 7:00 PM, and we will meet on Sunday morning at 9:30 AM.

Arrangements for **parking** at the Allentown Fairgrounds is underway, with a shuttle transport to Redeemer, located at 802 N. 19th Street. The A-town Bundle will receive complete information on this when it becomes available.



September 2026 Newsletter

Ministry & Events to Share



From St. Luke's

417 N. 7th Street

St. Luke's Clothes Closet

Open weekly on Thursdays: 9:30 - 11:30 AM - FREE!

Come to the Red Gates at entrance to the courtyard. Please bring your photo ID. Only one family allowed inside at a time. Visits are limited to every other week. Items accepted Thursdays during Clothes Closet hours. For other arrangements, contact Bonnie at 484-735-1169.



From St. John's

37 S. 5th Street

God's Work. Our Hands. | September 13

Following worship on Sunday, September 13, we will share a Potluck Luncheon followed by several service projects. We will break into teams to assemble Lunch Bags for Neighborhood House, assemble LWR Kits, and tie a quilt or two. All are welcome to join the fun!

Quilt & Kit Blessing Service | October 4

During 10:30 AM worship on October 4, the church will be adorned with over 100 handmade mission quilts and many baby care, personal care and school kits for Lutheran World Relief. We will have a special time of prayer and blessing for these handmade items that will be shared with those in need. Following the worship service, we will share a Potluck Luncheon followed by a concert at 2PM. Additional details will be provided.

Reformation Festival Worship | October 25

Save the date! This Bundle worship will be held at St. John's



From Christ Church

1245 Hamilton St.

Creative Card Makers | Tuesdays at 6:00 PM

The Creative Card Makers create get well, thinking of you, and special birthday cards throughout the year to share with friends and members, using recycled greeting cards and scrapbooking materials. At Easter and Christmas, larger booklets are made to send or deliver to shut-ins, friends and family. As 50+ Christmas cards are needed, we will start working on them in September. Many of our card makers meet on Tuesday evenings, while a few others come in during the day. If you are interested in joining us, or want more information about starting this ministry in your congregation, please contact the Christ church office.

Christ Church Cont'd



Here are some Christmas Booklet examples from the Card Makers. Booklets like these are created at Christmas and Easter each year, using recycled cards complimented by art supplies.



Twelfth Night Festival | www.christ-atown.org/twelfth-night-festival January 9 & 10, 2027

The Twelfth Night Festival has been underway for over 40 years. This community event has many friends and members of Christ Lutheran Church as well as First Presbyterian Church, Allentown. This dramatization tells the story of the journey to the manger through the lens of a Medieval manor house. Singers, cast, crew, and audience are always needed! Contact Drew Lutz-Long at drew@christ-atown.org if you are interested in joining or might want to learn more!



From St. Timothy Fall Craft Fair Planning Underway!

November 7 - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

St. Timothy will begin planning for their annual Craft Fair and bake sale. **Crafters are needed!** Tables (8-foot) are available. Contact Ivy Reynolds (610-393-1353) to register. Setup is available/open on November 6, 6:30-8:00 PM.

140 S. Ott Street



From Redeemer

Children's Sunday School

Resuming September 20 at 9:15 AM

Redeemer Lutheran Church offers Sunday School classes for **children ages 3 thru grade 6**. Sessions are held on the **first and third Sunday** of each month from 9:15 AM - 10:05 AM, September - May. Registration forms are available on our website, www.redeemerallentown.org, or through the church office. A Children's Christmas Program will be presented during worship on December 20. Rehearsals for the pageant will be December 6 and 20 during Sunday School.

802 N. 19th Street

Sunday School Dates this fall will be: September 20, October 4 & 18, November 1 & 15, and December 6 & 20.

Bible Course: “The Entire Bible for Everybody, From Atheists to Christian Believers!”

A nine-week course on Wednesdays, starting Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at Christ Lutheran Church, 1245 Hamilton St, Allentown. Classes offered at 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM, same material. Classes are 90 minutes.

A very unusual Bible Course will be offered at Christ Lutheran Church by Pastor Richard Mathisen, Interim Pastor at St. Luke's Lutheran, Allentown. For Christian believers, it starts from the assumption that the Bible answers the most important questions in life, including “What is the Meaning of Life?” It covers everything that a Christian believer ought to know about the Bible, from Genesis through Revelation, and how it all fits together. This is orthodox Christianity, applicable to Protestants, Catholics and Eastern Orthodox. All assigned readings are from the Bible. (A complete list of readings will be supplied at the first class.)



For persons who are more skeptical, the advantage of the course is that it is entirely scientific, based on the latest scientific information, Biblical scholarship, and Biblical Archaeology.

Pastor Mathisen is uniquely qualified to present this unusual PowerPoint



course. He is a doctoral student at the United Lutheran Seminary in Philadelphia and Gettysburg, who has taught a similar “Entire Bible” course at Bethlehem churches in 2022 and at the Lehigh Valley Active Life Center in 2023. He is a very experienced lecturer who encourages questions, especially difficult questions!

Registration in advance is important, for handouts and seating arrangements. To register, go to www.christ-atown.org/connect, email St. Luke's Lutheran Church at office@stlukesluth.org, call St. Luke's (610-434-3943 during office hours 10 am – 2 pm), or use the QR code. The cost of the class is \$10 for materials.

