

The Messenger

Volume XLVII ~ Issue 8 ~ August 2026

St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church

417 N. Seventh Street, Allentown, PA 18102

Phone: 610-434-3943 ~ **Fax:** 610-434-2372 ~ **Email:** office@stlukesluth.org

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

Vacation Bible School Begins August 10th!

One important outreach ministry of St. Luke's is our annual Vacation Bible School! Vacation Bible School this year will be held on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings (August 10-11-12) from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm. Children from age 5 to age 10 are invited! The theme will be the Lord's Prayer based on Martin Luther's explanations and modern-day stories. Fun activities and music will be part of this. There will also be activities on the St. Luke's Facebook page.

Many thanks to Bishop Genie Watson, Janey Zimmerman, Patti Engler, Lynn Weaver, Kathy Baker, Drea Berntsen, Bonnie Wachter, Ted Zimmerman, and all other VBS volunteers. They will help with registration, story-telling, games, music, and food. Additional volunteers are welcome, but please call the church office about requirements such as Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance forms.

We will be advertising this in the neighborhood. The 8th Ward Newsletter and the A-town Bundle Newsletter will also be advertising it. There will be special planning meetings of the Welcome and Witness Committee at the Coffee Hours on Sunday, August 2nd and 9th.

Please keep this effort in your prayers and support it in any way possible!

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Richard Mathisen

News and Notes



Meet and Greet for Secretary Lee Friedman! Many thanks to all who helped at the Meet and Greet for our new Church Secretary, Lee Friedman and her husband, Eric. It was held after church on Sunday, July 19th. We are very happy to have her with us!

Church Website Updated. Many thanks to Kathy Baker and new Church Secretary, Lee Friedman for the updating of the church website, available at [St. Luke's Website](#).

Youth Sermon by Noah Stambaugh! On July 19th, we had a special treat, as Noah Stambaugh presented the sermon. Noah is a recent graduate from high school with honors. He did a fine job!

Three-Fold Brochure Updated. Many thanks to Corliss Bachman for the updating of the church's three-fold brochure. Copies are available across from the elevator!

Prayer List Procedures Updated. Many thanks to Kathy Patterson and Lee Friedman for revising the procedures for keeping the Prayer List updated. *Beginning next week, our Prayer List procedures will be adjusted slightly. Persons will normally be added to our Prayer List for four weeks and then removed and placed in God's care, but can always be continued on our Prayer List by an additional request.

Welcome and Witness Committee Reactivated. Many thanks to Chair Lynn Weaver and the other members of the Welcome and Witness Committee. Their focus right now is on the Vacation Bible School program, but they have many other plans!

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

PROPERTY:

- The guardrail extension has been installed in the parking lot.
- A fire extinguisher has been replaced after the inspection was completed. Next year, the kitchen fire extinguisher will be replaced. There are a total of 13 extinguishers on the property. Some heat sensors need to be replaced as they are now too old.

WITNESS AND WELCOME:

- The Witness and Welcome Committee will resume monthly meetings on the 4th Sunday of the month following the worship service. The Committee is currently working on in-person Vacation Bible School to be held on August 10, 11, 12 for ages 5 through 10. The theme, created by Janey Zimmerman, is *The Lord's Prayer*. A series of 5 lessons will be taught to the participants during the 3 days. A kickoff meeting was held on June 28 with volunteers to review the nightly schedule.

Happenings at St. Luke's!



Pictured: Janey Zimmerman and Bishop Genie

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 available to cut the ribbons off the gate, please reach out to Bishop Genie Watson.



Pictured: Bishop Genie cutting



Located on the 2nd Floor

**A Little
Note
Brings A
Lot of Joy!!**

We are seeking your help to send messages out to our shut-ins, sick, live in nursing homes, members who need some love, visitors who have come to St. Luke's Lutheran Church and members of our community. Take a card, add a message . We can help you send it!

Thanks to Patti Engler and Beth Hickman for this awesome idea!



The August Messenger is presented
in honor of
**Bob and Kathy Patterson's
Fifty-sixth wedding anniversary**
by Keith and Dolores Lewis



We Asked, You Answered....

The girls were getting ready for the JCS performance in their roles as children in the chorus.

Center: Ella, granddaughter of Lynn Weaver and niece of Brian Follweiler, lead guitar in the JCS band and role of Simon Zealots.

Left: Olivia; Right: Addy—daughters of Louis Hoffman, who played the role of Judas in JCS.

Please MARK YOUR CALENDAR
8th Ward Neighborhood Group

8th Ward Neighborhood Group

School Supply Drive



Please help by bringing new backpacks and school supplies to the August 11th 7pm meeting or call Bonnie at 484-735-1169 to set up a time to drop them off at St. Luke's Church. We will be giving them out to students at the 8th Ward Neighborhood Group's **FREE FAMILY FUN NIGHT** on Tuesday, August 18th from 6:00pm-8:00 pm. on the sidewalk in front of the church, while supplies last.

Needed: New Backpacks, notebooks, folders, paper, pencils, sharpeners, pens, individual tissue packs, sanitizer and wipes. Items remaining or larger sized will be given to Washington Elementary School for in-classroom use.

Let's Have a Picnic!



SUNDAY, AUGUST 16TH

FELLOWSHIP HALL

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE WORSHIP SERVICE



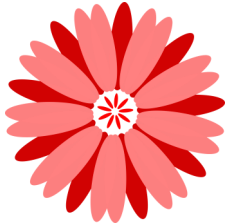
We will enjoy a potluck lunch with hot dogs, hamburgers, and rolls being provided by the church. We need picnic sides and desserts to round out the menu. We ask that each person or family bring a dish to share that is ready to serve with an accompanying utensil. If it is a hot dish, please bring it already heated in a crockpot, as we want to avoid using the ovens the day of the picnic.

A sign-up sheet is on the back table for you to fill out to let us know what dish you are bringing as well as how many people in your family will attend. We encourage you to bring guests. We just would like to know so that we are properly prepared with food and the table set-up.

We continue our tradition of playing Bingo, so please bring an unwrapped prize for our lucky winners. If you have any other ideas for activities for the picnic, please let us know.

We are looking for volunteers to assist with the picnic preparations and clean-up afterwards, so please see Lynn Weaver or Kathy Patterson if you are interested in helping.

FINANCIAL PICTURE



Financials as of June 30, 2026		
Income		5,103.00
Expenses	*includes downpayment for organ repair*	(49,251.77)
Roof Fund Loans as of June 30, 2026		
Memorial Fund Loans		
North Roof		16,000.00
South Turret Roof		15,955.00
Elevator Addition Roof		10,000.00
Apartment Turret Roof		5,000.00
Apartment Roof		17,000.00
Loan Repay		(20,190.00)
Balance		43,765.00

8th Ward
Neighborhood Group
and St. Luke's
Spaghetti Dinner
Saturday, October 17
More information to follow!



St. Timothy Lutheran
 140 So. Ott Street, Allentown **2026**
Worship on Wednesdays 7pm
 Welcome Worship Center Pavilion
 (inside if weather is unfavorable)



August 5- The JCS Band, St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Allentown

SPEAKER: Pr. Maritza Torres Dolich
Community Org.: Second Harvest Food Bank

**BRING
A
LAWNCHAIR!**



Blessings on Your Birthday!

August 3

Bishop Genie Watson

Charles Talaber – Happy 80th Birthday, Charlie!

August 5

Kathy Baker

August 10

Pastor Richard Mathisen

August 11

Zachary Strouse

August 12

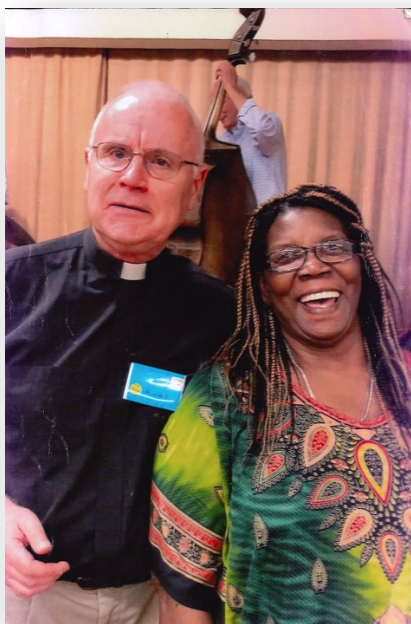
Corliss Bachman

August 14

Patricia Knerr

In loving memory of Elwood Shanton who passed away last year just six days shy of his August 7th birthday when he would have attained the age of 101 years old.

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



Pastor Lamb and Monica Tucker-Morgan





July 2026

Meet and Greet for our
new church secretary and
July Birthday
Celebrations!

*Thank you to
Bob and Kathy Patterson
for all you do!*



Pictured from L to R: Eric Friedman, Lee Friedman,
Barbara Mathisen, Pastor Richard Mathisen and
Pastor Ted Zimmerman



Thank you to
everyone who helped
make it so special!



Lay Ministers August 2026

Date	Offering Collector	Scripture Reader	Worship Assistant	Communion Assistant
8/2/26	B. Engler	D. Skinner	P. Engler	M. Westman
8/9/26	E. Hickman	C. Murphy	K. Baker	L. Weaver
8/16/26	K. Baker	M. Westman	M. Tucker-Morgan	M. Westman
8/23/26	R. Patterson	L. Weaver	B. Mathisen	L. Weaver
8/30/26	D. Skinner	C. Bachman	M. Westman	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.

FREE FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Tuesday, August 18th - 6pm-8pm

FREE SNACKS, DRINKS, and GAMES!!

FREE KIDS BACKPACKS & SCHOOL TOOLS (while supplies last)

Bring your lawn chair and let's hang out front and meet our neighbors. If it rains, we will go indoors to St. Luke's Lutheran Church's Fellowship Hall.

Want to help?? (We are seeking NEW backpacks and other school supplies as mentioned earlier) - call Bonnie 484-735-1169. Also, it would be really great to have an activity presented by St. Luke's Church—please speak with Lynn to volunteer or help out in anyway. We want to be present and engaging—this is the week right after VBS so a tie-in or follow-up activity would be great!

FREE FUN FOR ALL !!!



**PHOTOS
ANYONE??**

St. Luke's Lutheran Church

VBS

Aug 10 - 12

6:30pm

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**417 N 7th Street
Allentown, PA**

**FREE SNACKS AND
REFRESHMENTS**

AGES 5-10

CALL

610-434-3943

TO REGISTER

When the hot weather keeps you inside, take a moment to look through your photographs and see if you have any of St. Luke's and its many members and activities through the years. We're always looking to add to our archives and even frame up some more pictures to jog our memories as we walk around the church!



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.

So, now what?!

Now that we have centered ourselves in a shared mission, we are working to address concerns and consider what work we can do in the A-town Bundle. At our June 28 Reveal Gathering, the concerns most noted were about personnel demands already being high. Due to the current workload as well as the timeline of identifying any LLM candidates or finding additional leadership to add to the Bundle, a traditional "6261" model does not seem compatible to many. We DO believe collaboration and shared ministry of our own definition CAN be pursued and a benefit to everyone.

That means our work this summer is to

- define the gifts we DO have and which ones we can share,
- determine what needs there are based on the current leaders in place, and
- name the gifts needed for the A-town Bundle to flourish.

This work and discernment is underway at three levels: by each Church Council, by the leaders meeting with a coach, and by the Exploratory Team when they meet again in August. Stay tuned to your church's newsletter and this publication while we continue our shared discernment.

Ministry & Events to Share



From St. Luke's

417 N. 7th Street

Vacation Bible School | The Lord's Prayer

August 10-12 – 6:30-8:00 PM | In-Person & Online, ages 5-10

Fun activities, music and food! Volunteers/helpers are welcome! To register or volunteer, call St. Luke's office: 610-434-3943.

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. **If you can donate, the current need is summer clothing!** Items accepted Thursdays during Clothes Closet hours. For other arrangements, contact Bonnie at 484-735-1169.



From St. John's

37 S. 5th Street

Arts at St. John's

Bach at Noon – August 11 (12:00-1:00 PM)

In June, July, and August, The Bach Choir of Bethlehem comes to Allentown! Summer concerts are at St. John's Lutheran and part of the Arts at St. John's series. For August updates, visit www.bach.org!

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. Through the month of August, we will collect donations for the Lunch Bags and LWR Kits. All are welcome to join the fun!

Arts at
St. John's



From Christ Church

1245 Hamilton St.

Window Wednesdays!

Wednesdays – 6:00-7:00 PM

Christ Church is partnering with Old Allentown Preservation Association to share summer workshops on Understanding, Restoring, and Maintaining Historic Windows. Sessions will be **(July 29)** Overview; **(Aug. 5)** Storm Windows & Weatherstripping; **(Aug. 19)** Wood Rot and Other Repairs; **(Aug. 26)** Do's and Don'ts for Priming, Glazing, and Painting. Please sign up by emailing info@oldallentown.org.



Christ Church Cont'd

[visit www.summerharmony.org](http://www.summerharmony.org)

Summer Harmony Men's Chorus Concert

Sunday, August 30 - 3:00 PM | First Presbyterian Church Allentown

The Connections Team is going to a concert and dinner! We are attending the 35th Season Concert of Summer Harmony Men's Chorus. After, we will meet for dinner at The Shanty on 19th Street. Concert Tickets are available at the door - to join for dinner, please contact the Christ Church office so we can reserve seats! (info@christ-atown.org)



From St. Timothy

140 S. Ott Street

Worship on Wednesdays Summer Series

Wednesdays at 7:00 PM

This series highlights different music leadership, guest speaker, and ministry supported each week! Worship is held at St. Tim's pavilion if the weather is favorable. Here is the remaining August lineup.

August 5 - Music by: The JCS Band, St. Luke's | Guest Speaker: Pastor Maritza Dolich
offering supporting Second Harvest Food Bank

August 12 - Music: Grace Notes Gospel Big Band | Guest Speaker: Pastor Bud Daneker
offering supporting Allentown Ecumenical Food Bank

August 19 - VERY BERRY FESTIVAL | Music by: The Lehigh Valley Folk Society
check out full info from St. Tim's on the back page



From Redeemer

802 N. 19th Street

100th Anniversary Celebration and A-town Bundle Worship

SAVE THE DATE! Sunday, September 27 at 10:15 AM

The Bishop of the NEPA Synod will be preaching and presiding. A combined choir will offer special music during worship. If you'd like to participate, contact Drew Lutz-Long at Christ Lutheran! Parking is being arranged via shuttle from the Allentown Fairgrounds to Redeemer. Otherwise, parking is available locally around 19th & Washington Streets.

Benefit Doubleheader Softball Game | Patriot's Park (1027 St. John St)

Saturday, August 15 - 5:00 PM (rain date August 22)

Come out and cheer for the RLC members and enjoy a bake sale and gift basket raffle. All proceeds benefit the Alzheimer's Association

~~ANNUAL PEACH~~ **VERY BERRY** **FESTIVAL**

(Local peaches
are not available
this year)



Wednesday
August 19, 2026

6 to 7:30 p.m.

FREE Berries and Ice Cream
Baked Goods For Sale

**Members of the
Lehigh Valley Folk Society
will be playing
for the
Very Berry Festival!**



**PLEASE JOIN US FOR GOOD MUSIC,
GOOD FOOD & FELLOWSHIP**

**Proceeds from bake sale and free will offering
will benefit the WoW
Community Organizations present**

Location: St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, 140 S. Ott St., Allentown