

The Messenger

Volume XLVII ~ Issue 3 ~ March 2025

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>

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

Sunday Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.

Music Director: Andrea Berntsen

Sexton: Beth Hickman

Administrative Assistant: Camille Campbell

Outreach Coordinator: Pr. Dr. Genie Watson

The Pastor's Message

New Member Sunday, February 23, 2025!

New Member Sunday is always a joyful time for a congregation because it shows that the congregation is growing! On February 23rd, St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church welcomed four new members: Cathi Murphy, Donna Recker, Noah Stambaugh, and Robert Birk. Cathi, Donna, and Noah are well-known to most of us. Robert Birk is probably not as well-known, although I introduced him to several people at the Christmas Eve service last December. Noah is officially a transfer from Star of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, PA, where he was confirmed. We welcome all four of them as new members and are very pleased to have them join us at St. Luke's!

The Season of Lent Begins March 5!

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, will be celebrated on March 5, when St. Luke's joins the other Churches in Allentown Collaborative Ministries. The Ash Wednesday services will be held at noon and 7:00 pm at Muhlenberg College, in the Egner Memorial Chapel, and at noon at Redeemer Lutheran Church. The evening service will feature the Collaborative Choir. Please join us!

The Collaborative will also hold Midweek Lenten Bible Studies each Wednesday at St. Timothy Lutheran Church (140 S. Ott Street, Allentown) with lunch being served. The five sessions will feature a Bible study called "We Are Family: Exploring the Families of the Bible." (See the attached schedule.)

Lent is always a time to prepare spiritually for Holy Week in April. We prepare ourselves by Bible study and self-examination during this holy time.

Please join us throughout this Lenten season as we all prepare ourselves for Holy Week!

Blessings to all of you!

Pastor Richard Mathisen

Financial Highlights

Financials as of January 31, 2025

Income	5,752.00
Expenses	-14,127.00

Roof Fund Loans as of January 31, 2025

Memorial Fund Loans

North Roof	16,000.00
Elevator Addition Roof	10,000.00
Apartment Turret Roof	5,000.00
Apartment Roof	17,000.00
Loan Repay	-10,126.00
Balance	37,874.00

Join us for...

Education Hour

Sundays, 9:00 – 10:00 am

Marty Westman continues to lead the study of the Book of Revelation.

Worship Service with Holy Communion

Sundays at 10:30 am

- Palm Sunday – April 13
- Easter Sunday – April 20

Fellowship/Coffee Hour

Sundays after the Worship Service



Good Friday – April 18
at noon, St. Luke's
*Bilingual Stations of the
Cross*

.....
The sanctuary will remain
open for prayer from
noon to 3 PM.

Property Committee Highlights

- ❖ Met with a technician from Burkholder's to complete the wiring of the A/C air handlers reset switches. Now they should automatically reset when the electricity goes off.
- ❖ We picked up sixteen 50 lb. bags of salt to be used on the pavements around the Church to help with the clearing of the snow and ice.
- ❖ Opened blocking sink drain in the restroom near the Church office.
- ❖ We continue with the repairs of several heating zones throughout the Church buildings.
- ❖ Scheduling with Paul Wright Roofing to replace the leaking roof on the South tower.
- ❖ Met with the estimator from Protect Alarms to work up a proposal for a much-needed update to the office security system. They can no longer get parts for our outdated system.
- ❖ Thanks to Carol Mayers for connecting us with a snow plowing and salting vendor to take care of clearing the parking lot this winter season.

St. Luke's Open House
March 29, 1 pm – 4 pm

(Snow Date: March 30)

The flyer is attached.

Allentown Collaborative Ministries'
Lent 2025 Worship Services
schedule is attached.

Allentown Collaborative Ministries Lent 2025 Worship Services

Ash Wednesday – March 5th

Noon - Informal Worship Service and Imposition of Ashes
Muhlenberg Egnor Chapel
2400 Chew Street, Allentown, PA

Noon - Informal Worship Service and Imposition of Ashes
Redeemer Lutheran Church
802 N. 19th Street, Allentown, PA

7 PM – Worship with Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes
with the Allentown Collaborative Ministries Choir
Muhlenberg Egnor Chapel
2400 Chew Street, Allentown, PA

Maundy Thursday – April 17

Noon - Worship with Holy Communion
Redeemer Lutheran Church
802 N. 19th Street, Allentown, PA

7 PM - Bi-lingual Worship with Foot Washing and Holy Communion
Church of the Mediator Episcopal Church
1620 W. Turner Street, Allentown, PA

Good Friday – April 18

Noon – Bilingual Stations of the Cross
St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church
417 N. 7th Street, Allentown, PA
(The Church sanctuary will remain open for prayer from noon to 3 PM.)

7 PM - Tenebrae Service
St. John's Lutheran Church
37 S. 5th Street, Allentown, PA

Easter Vigil – April 19

7 PM - Worship with Holy Communion (A Champagne Reception follows)
Christ Lutheran Church
1245 Hamilton Street, Allentown, PA

NEWS AND NOTES

Camille Campbell's Resignation, Church Secretary Position Advertised

The St. Luke's Personnel Committee was very sorry to receive the resignation of our Administrative Assistant, Camille Campbell. She was very helpful to all of us during her time at St. Luke's. Camille had the challenge of a long commute and balancing a part-time job at a College close to home. The offer of a full-time job at the College was a great opportunity. Camille offered to complete the Sunday bulletins through March 2 and the March Messenger, which was helpful to us. We wish Camille all the best in her future endeavors.

The Personnel Committee decided to change the title of the position to "Church Secretary" instead of "Administrative Assistant" and has begun advertising to fill the vacancy. If you know anyone who might be interested, they should submit a resume to the Personnel Committee as soon as possible.

Church Copiers and Computers Updated

St. Luke's contract for its two copiers needed to be renewed. We were able to renew the office copier as a color copier with very little additional expense. We also needed to update our Church computers to accept Windows 11. Both updates were accomplished during February.

Lenten Midweek Bible Studies at St. Timothy

For the third year, the Allentown Collaborative Ministries will hold Midweek Bible Studies, including lunch, at St. Timothy Lutheran Church each Wednesday. Over the past two years, this event attracted about 50 to 60 people. The Bible studies will be on March 12th, March 19th, March 26th, April 2nd, and April 9th. All midweek meetings are at St. Timothy Lutheran Church (140 S. Ott Street, Allentown), which has worked very well. The Bible studies will be on the topic "We Are Family: Exploring the Families of the Bible" prepared by Rev. Joanne Marchetto of the Barn. Pastors or deacons of the Collaborative Churches will facilitate the Bible studies. Lunch will be supplied each week by one or two of those Churches.

Janey and Pastor Ted Zimmerman Depart for China Trip

We are all happy for the Zimmermans to be able to visit their family in China. They are scheduled to be away from February 24th to April 16th. We will miss them while they are away, but it is a wonderful opportunity for them!



Movie night was fun! The group watched *A Question of Faith*. The popcorn machine was popping, and the pizza was good! Thank you to the Zimmermans for the pizza! (Left Pic: Pastor Genie and Noah; Right Pic: Pastor Ted and Janey Zimmerman with Pastor Mathisen)



On Friday, February 14, Beth shared love with Neighborhood House by making tacos for everyone. They were delicious! If you are available, please sign up to volunteer on Fridays, 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm. Your help is needed.



Happy Birthday!

Blessings on your birthday

<i>March 4</i>	<i>Mary Davis</i>
<i>March 9</i>	<i>Janice Updegrove</i>
<i>March 17</i>	<i>Franklin Johnson</i>
<i>March 21</i>	<i>Elizabeth Hickman</i>
<i>March 26</i>	<i>Lynn Weaver</i>

Have we missed anyone?
Please call the Church office if you would like to be added to our birthday list.

Prayer



Requests

Please keep in prayer those who are sick, suffering, homebound, or grieving the loss of loved ones, especially:

FOR HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Anita Ambler
November Barton-Moore
Mary Davis
Mona Glose
Donald Helm
Daria Kern
Frederick J. (Jim) Kern, III
George Kratzer, Sr.

Dolores Lewis
Keith Lewis
Erica Lopez
Carol Mayers
Dennis Miller
Cathi Murphy
Donna Recker & family
Zachary Strouse

Carl Swoyer, Jr.
Eddie Swoyer
Elizabeth Swoyer
Monica Tucker-Morgan
Carol Vasko
Susan Wyman
Marge Yarnall
Juan

The families of Linda L. Miller and Annette Haftl on their loss

FOR OUR HOMEBOUND

Elva Bachman
Ruth Brinker

Jackie Gehringer
Vivienne Ho
Miriam Schuon

Elwood Shanton
Charlie Talaber

Lay Ministers March 2025					
Mar	Offering Collector	Scripture Reader	Worship Assistant	Communion Assistant	Greeter
2	E. Hickman	K. Baker	K. Baker	L. Weaver	B. Mathisen
9	K. Baker	M. Tucker-Morgan	M. Westman	M. Westman	B. Engler
16	R. Patterson	G. Schlegel	S. Simonnet	L. Weaver	E. Hickman
23	D. Skinner	D. Skinner	L. Weaver	M. Westman	K. Baker
30	B. Engler	M. Westman	C. Bachman	L. Weaver	R. Patterson

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.



TO SPONSOR
 ALTAR FLOWERS
 (\$16.00/VASE),
 WEEKLY BULLETINS (\$12.00),
 OR
 THE MESSENGER (\$35.00),
 CONTACT
 KATHY PATTERSON:
 484-633-0333
 ROBERT.PATTERSON@RCN.COM



Easter Flowers

something new this year, fresh for spring

Some of our members have told us that the strong fragrance and pollen of traditional Easter lilies affects their allergies, making it difficult or impossible for them to attend a church service on Easter Sunday. Also, many nursing homes where our shut-ins live are starting to not allow lilies in the residents' rooms.

We have an alternate plan that we think will be an attractive and colorful solution. This year we will adorn the St. Luke's chancel on Easter with your choice of beautiful fresh spring potted plants: **daffodils and tulips**. The daffodils will be yellow. The tulips will come in assorted colors, grower's choice, making a lovely resurrection display in our church. **Both plants come in a 6" pot with multiple buds and blooms.** Suitable for indoors or planting outdoors (when weather permits) to extend your enjoyment.



We trust you appreciate this gesture that will allow more people to participate in our Easter Sunday worship on April 20. Remember and honor your loved ones, same as always, with these beautiful symbols of spring and new life.

 **DEADLINE for orders is Sunday, March 30, 2025.**

Name _____ Env. # _____ Telephone # _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

Number of **DAFFODILS**: _____ Number of **TULIPS**: _____ Total plants _____ x **\$8.00** = \$ _____

Paid by check # _____ OR Paid by cash I will pick up my plants. I will donate my plants.

I prefer to donate to the Raise the Roof Campaign. Amount \$ _____

Please return this completed form with payment to Kathy Patterson, in offering plate, via e-mail to robert.patterson@rcn.com, or call Kathy at 484 633-0333. Make checks payable to **St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church.**

St. Luke's Lutheran Church

March

29

1-4pm
snow
date
3/30

open House

Children's
Corner

417 N. 7th Street

FREE

Church
Tours

Allentown, PA



This is
my Son,
my Chosen;
listen
to him!

LUKE 9:35

March 2025 Bible Readings

WEEK 1

- *Exodus 34:29-35* *Coming down from Mount Sinai, Moses' face shone*
- *Psalms 99* *Proclaim the greatness of the Lord; worship upon God's holy hill. (Ps. 99:9)*
- *2 Corinthians 3:12—4:2* *With unveiled faces we see the Lord's glory as we are transformed*
- *Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]* *Jesus is transfigured on the mountain*

WEEK 2

- *Deuteronomy 26:1-11* *The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand*
- *Psalms 91:1-2, 9-16* *God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways. (Ps. 91:11)*
- *Romans 10:8b-13* *If you confess that Jesus is Lord, you will be saved*
- *Luke 4:1-13* *The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days*

WEEK 3

- *Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18* *The covenant with Abram and his descendant*
- *Psalms 27* *In the day of trouble, God will give me shelter. (Ps. 27:5)*
- *Philippians 3:17—4:1* *Our citizenship is in heaven from where we expect a Savior*
- *Luke 13:31-35* *I have desired to gather Jerusalem as a hen gathers her brood*

WEEK 4

- *Isaiah 55:1-9* *Everyone who thirsts, come to the water; seek the Lord*
- *Psalms 63:1-8* *O God, eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you. (Ps. 63:1)*
- *1 Corinthians 10:1-13* *Israel, baptized in cloud and seas, ate the same spiritual food as Christians*
- *Luke 13:1-9* *Unless you repent, you will perish: parable of the fig tree*

WEEK 5

- *Joshua 5:9-12* *Israel eats bread and grain, the produce of the land*
- *Psalms 32* *Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord. (Ps. 32:11)*
- *2 Corinthians 5:16-21* *The mystery and ministry of reconciliation*
- *Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32* *The parable of the prodigal father and the repentant son*