

First Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-14

God promises to bring Israel back to its land from the most remote parts of exile. In Zion Israel will rejoice over God's gift of food and livestock. Young women will express their joy in dancing; God will give gladness instead of sorrow.

⁷ Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
“Save, O Lord, your people,
the remnant of Israel.”

⁸ See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

⁹ With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

¹⁰ Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, “He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.”

¹¹ For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.

¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

¹³ Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.

¹⁴ I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,

Psalm: Psalm 147:12-20

Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion. (Ps. 147:12)

¹² Worship the Lord, | O Jerusalem;
praise your | God, O Zion,

¹³ **who has strengthened the bars | of your gates
and has blessed your chil- | dren within you.**

¹⁴ God has established peace | on your borders

- and satisfies you with the | finest wheat.
- ¹⁵ God sends out a command | to the earth,
a word that runs | very swiftly.
- ¹⁶ God gives | snow like wool,
scattering | frost like ashes.
- ¹⁷ God scatters | hail like bread crumbs.
Who can stand a- | gainst God's cold?
- ¹⁸ The Lord sends forth the | word and melts them;
the wind blows, and the | waters flow.
- ¹⁹ God declares the | word to Jacob,
statutes and judg- | ments to Israel.
- ²⁰ The Lord has not done so to any | other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. | Hallelujah!

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵ He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

*** Gospel: John 1:1-18**

John begins his gospel with this prologue: a hymn to the word through all things were created. This word became flesh and brought grace and truth to the world.

P: The holy gospel according to John, the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the

light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' ") ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Service Announcements – January 5, 2025

Fundraiser for Steeple Repair Fund: Dry Mix Jars - The Discipleship Committee, in conjunction with the Missions Committee, will be selling Dry Soup, and Cookie Mix Jars. Proceeds will go towards the Steeple repair fund. The prices are \$10.00 each for either Chocolate Chip Cookie, Chicken Noodle Soup, or Lentil Soup Mixes. The order forms can be found in the Narthex or Welcome Center or email Nicole at: Nicolegreer0203@gmail.com In the subject line write *Soup Jars*. Cash or check made out to St. Luke's Lutheran Church can be given at time of order or placed in Nicole's Mailbox along with order form. Deadline to order: January 26th, with pick up on February 9th. Thank you for your support!

Church Steeple - When you give to the Building Fund on your church envelope this money is going to help offset the cost of the church steeple. - Thank you

Welcome Center - If you can help in 2025, please reach out to Linda Mertz (lindamertz46@aol.com and 484-447-2024) or sign-up in the Welcome Center.

Annual Congregation Meeting - The annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26th at 10:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. The Welcome Center will be open - light snacks, coffee, and water will be available. During the Congregational Meeting we will review the reports of the church Committee's and Task Force activities for 2024, review and approve the Budget for 2025, and elect members to join the Church Council for 2025.

Diakonia - A new class began on January 4, 2025. This course is titled, Lutheran Creeds and Confessions, provides an analysis of the historical context and theological content of the Book of Concord (the Lutheran Confessions) with an eye to establishing the importance of its witness for Christian mission and ministry. Please consider joining this powerful faith formation opportunity.

Informational Session - Join us at the Faith Formation hour on January 12, 2025 at 10:15, when Council members will share information about the ordering of new doors for the Welcome Center and the Church.

PRAYER REQUESTS – January 5, 2025

Members Of Saint Luke's Church

Spencer Brothers, Lily Greer, Barry Isett, Mark Knepp, Barry & Linda Mertz, Merrill Mest, Robert Pulcher, Chris Quigg, Roger Rhoads, Fern Richard, Nancy Schodle, Sharyn & Herb Seddon, Ron Sekellick, David Semmens, Jeff & Julene Steigelmann, Henry Stetler, Carol Welch, Stewart Young

Friends Of Saint Luke's Church

Gen Adams <i>Great-grandson of Judy Hunsberger</i>	Sue Alderfer Glazier <i>Friend of Linda Mertz</i>	Marilyn <i>Friend of David and Mary Imes</i>
Glenn Argue <i>Friend of Doug & Sharon Killough</i>	Ken Hunsberger, Jr <i>Stepson of Judy Hunsberger</i>	Linda McLaughlin <i>Friend of Carol Langton</i>
Dan Bair <i>Friend of Marty & Laurie Jordan</i>	Art Hunter <i>Friend of Cars, Coffee, & Christ visitor (Karl McClelland)</i>	Nathan <i>Grandson of Community Dinner attendee</i>
David Bates, Melissa Pisano <i>Brother and sister-in law of Brenda Foose</i>	Jackie <i>Sister of Kay Badman</i>	Emily Neeld <i>Daughter of Allison Neeld, friend of Nancy Schodle</i>
Dennis Bartchak <i>Cousin of Judy Hunsberger</i>	Jenkins Family <i>Friends of Pr. Amy</i>	John N. <i>Co-worker of Cindy Field</i>
Matt Beam & family <i>Friends of Sharon Killough</i>	John & Cindy <i>Friends of St. Luke's</i>	Tim Overholtzer <i>Brother-in-law of Pat Stonerook</i>
Andry Boeno <i>Friend of the Way family</i>	Laurie Johnson <i>Cousin of Julie Kinzel</i>	Laurel Powanda <i>Friend of Linda Mertz</i>
Rose Brendlinger <i>Friend of Merlyn Jordan</i>	Bob Kelly & family <i>Stepfather of Brendan Greer</i>	Lucille Powell <i>Friend of Nancy Schodle</i>
Lorie Carroll <i>Mother of Paula Bickelman</i>	Lucy & Bob Kern <i>Friends of Nancy Schodle</i>	Robert Quigg <i>Brother-in-law of Chris Quigg</i>
Louie Cimino <i>Friend of Deneen Kratz</i>	Kevin & Ann <i>Friends of Pr. Amy</i>	Bill Rhoads <i>Husband of Ruth Rhoads</i>
Garrett Coyne <i>Friend of Ian Kratz</i>	Linda Keyser <i>Former member of St. Luke's</i>	Calvin Dietrich Savage <i>Grandson of Dennis & Gail Faust</i>
Donna <i>Friend of Jen Christman</i>	Kimberly, Geri, Cathy, Jeanette <i>Friends of Chris Quigg</i>	Wendy Speilman <i>Friend of Deneen Kratz</i>
Mary Daugherty <i>Sister of Peggy Brendlinger</i>	Sue Labbe & family <i>Aunt of Nicole Greer</i>	Stephanie <i>Friend of Gwen Semmens</i>
Toni Faust <i>Sister-in-law of Dennis & Gail Faust</i>	Lauren <i>Friend of Linda Mertz</i>	Harry & Nancy White <i>Friends of St. Luke's</i>
Mike Fili <i>Friend of Marty & Laurie Jordan</i>	Lila <i>sister of Jerry Jordan</i>	Kathy Wolper <i>Friend of Linda Mertz</i>
	Loraine <i>Sister of Dave and Gwen Semmens</i>	Gail Wyatt <i>Cousin of Audrey Reinhart</i>
	Edie Lou Manning <i>Cousin of Linda Mertz</i>	

Persons In Military Service

Joseph P. Breidor, John P Carmelo, IV, Lt. Darby Driscoll, Capt. Ian Driscoll, Ens. Leah Duff, Jared Kirk, JD & his Unit, Trey Knepp, Greg Kunkle, Dan Marchiano, Andrew Matsko, Guy Row, Kevin Row, Preston Schoenly
Person in Peace Corps – Jonathan King (nephew of Cindy Fields)

Prayer Ministry: Gwen Semmens is the Prayer Ministry Coordinator. Please call Gwen (215-872-1046) or send an email (hawksmer@comcast).