

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 judgments 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. ⁹ The 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 4, 2026

Christmas Tree - We are extending a heartfelt thank you to Craig and Peggy Brendlinger for their generous offering of our beautiful Christmas tree. Each year, the trees they provide for us get better and better and add so much to the warm feeling in our sanctuary.

Annual Congregation Meeting – The annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 25, 2026 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 2025, review and approve the Budget for 2026, and elect members to join the Church Council for 2026.

Thrift Shop Meeting – Next Sunday, January 11, 2026, after worship, we will meet to continue discussions on creating a thrift shop at St. Luke’s. Join us in the Gathering Room.

Book Club - Our book club has chosen our new read, *Sensible Shoes: A Story About the Spiritual Journey* by Sharon Garlough Brown. Dig into this highly recommended book and then join us on Sunday, February 8, 2026, after worship for our discussion. See Pastor Amy if you need a copy of the book.

Community Dinner - Our next dinner is Thursday, January 15th at 5:30 p.m. If you have never attended our Community Dinner, this is an excellent opportunity to experience this ministry of fellowship with our neighbors. Please join us. Also, if this is a ministry you would be interested in working in, please reach out to Marty Jordan or Sharon Killough.

Offering Envelopes – Envelopes are in your mailbox, if you haven’t received them. If you need 2026 envelopes, please contact Peggy Brendlinger at 610-310-6407.

Welcome Center - There are new sign-up sheets on the bulletin board for 2026. We still need Welcome Center hosts for February 1st, February 8th, March 1st, March 8th, and March 29th. Please consider helping and volunteering to provide snacks for the church. Thank you!

Day of Service - The Missions/Discipleship Committee is spearheading St. Luke’s contribution to MLK, Jr, Day of service by creating 20 Hygiene Kits for distribution by Lutheran Disaster response after a tragedy. The Missions/Discipleship Committee will be providing the materials and we’re looking for congregation members to help us assemble the kits after the service today. It should be accomplished quickly, and many hands make light work. Hope to see you there.

PRAYER REQUESTS – January 4, 2026

Members Of Saint Luke's Church

Rosemarie Bliss, Spencer Brothers, Lily Greer, Barry Isett, Barry Mertz, Merrill Mest, Judy Moyer, Dan Pulcher, Robert Pulcher, Chris Quigg, Roger Rhoads, Nancy Schodle, Herb Seddon, Ron Sekellick, David Semmens, Jeff & Julene Steigelmann, Henry Stetler, Mike Way, Carol Welch, Stewart Young

Friends Of Saint Luke's Church

Aaron, Brandon <i>Sons of Chris Quigg</i>	Brian & Diane Eyes <i>Friends of Barry Mertz</i>	Smoky Panepinto & family <i>Friends of St. Luke's</i>
Gen Adams <i>Great-grandson of Judy Hunsberger</i>	Judy & Don Fenstermacher <i>Friends of Chris Quigg</i>	Jim & Holly Parmer <i>Sister & brother-in-law of Gwen Semmens</i>
Glenn Argue <i>Friend of Doug & Sharon Killough</i>	Geri, Cathy <i>Friends of Chris Quigg</i>	Wayne Rachel & little Dax <i>Nephew of Barry Mertz</i>
Chris Bean, & mother, Barbara <i>Friends of St. Luke's</i>	Jackie <i>Sister of Kay Badman</i>	Scott Randolph <i>Friend of Rob & Paula Bickelman</i>
Beth <i>Niece of Brenda Foose</i>	Joan <i>Friend of Pat & Dick Stonerook</i>	David Renninger <i>Sexton at St. Luke's</i>
Beth & family <i>Friend of Carol & Joe Langton</i>	Ken & Marie Hunsberger <i>Stepson & his wife of Judy Hunsberger</i>	Dennis Ritchie <i>Requested by Doug & Sharon Killough</i>
Andry Boeno <i>Friend of the Way family</i>	Grant & Nancy Karsner <i>Friends of Dennis & Gail Faust</i>	Calvin Dietrich Savage <i>Grandson of Dennis & Gail Faust</i>
Angela Boyer <i>Daughter of Audrey Reinhart</i>	Sandi Kelly <i>Friend of St. Luke's</i>	Chris Slater <i>Friend of Rob & Paula Bickelman</i>
Rose Brendlinger <i>Friend of Merlyn Jordan</i>	Sue Labbe & family <i>Aunt of Nicole Greer</i>	Pat Smith <i>Mother of Pastor Amy</i>
Bry <i>Friend of the Knepp family</i>	Lila Lundborg <i>Sister of Jerry Jordan</i>	Priscilla Snyder <i>Friend of Pastor Amy</i>
Lorie Carroll <i>Mother of Paula Bickelman</i>	Linda McLaughlin <i>Friend of Carol Langton</i>	Wendy Speilman <i>Friend of Deneen Kratz</i>
Chris & Shaina & daughter, Charlotte <i>Friends of Brendan Greer</i>	Jim Miller & family <i>Nephew of Carol Welch</i>	Julia Tchou <i>Friend of Pastor Amy</i>
Louie Cimino <i>Friend of Deneen Kratz</i>	Michael & Rita Natalini <i>Friends of Rob & Paula Bickelman</i>	Lauren Weaver <i>Daughter-in-law of Barry Mertz</i>
Garrett Coyne <i>Friend of Ian Kratz</i>	Tim Overholtzer <i>Brother-in-law of Pat Stonerook</i>	
Dawn Curran <i>Friend of Kristin Bauer</i>		
Mary Doughty <i>Sister of Peggy Brendlinger</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, Corey Stonerook, Philip Washington

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