

# The Good News

St. Luke's Lutheran Church Rt. 73 & Neiffer Road Obelisk, Pennsylvania August 2024  
3206 Big Road, Zieglerville, PA 19492 [www.stlukeslutheran.church](http://www.stlukeslutheran.church) StLukesObelisk.Office@gmail.com



**Sundays:**  
9:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion  
Third Sunday of the month: Praise Service in Fellowship Hall

August 25 – Outdoor Service (weather permitting)

## From the Pastor:

Greetings to our St. Luke's family and friends – I hope that this newsletter finds you all well and enjoying some summer fun, rest, and relaxation. Julie and I had an opportunity to get away and visit some family at the end of June. Believe it or not, the week we were away, it was hotter in Obelisk than it was in Charlestown, S.C. and Athens, GA where we stayed! The weather has been challenging this year.

Despite a stretch of long, hot, summer days, there is much happening at St. Luke's. The month of July saw two notable events. The first was a week of Vacation Bible School (VBS). This year, we again partnered with St. James Limerick to offer VBS to the community. We had seventy-two children, ages 5 – 4<sup>th</sup> grade, register and join us for the week. The curriculum we used had the theme of SCUBA and St. Luke's ran the Imagination Station portion of the day. That meant all the activities we did involved seventy-two kids and water! I'll leave it to your imagination as to how that went! There are

pictures on our Facebook page of all the fun we had. The best part of the week was that, in part due to St. Luke's commitment to VBS, seventy-two children spent a week having fun and learning about God's love.

The second event I would like to share with you has to do with the work our Property Committee is doing on the church's steeple. Over time, it has become clear that regular maintenance is needed to ensure the integrity of the steeple. Committee members have been gathering information, meeting with contractors, and seeking bids on the work. One day, Paul and Kevin Christman, who have been leading these efforts, took a field trip to the top of the steeple, the belfry, and I got to join them!

What I wanted to share with you about this experience, besides the remarkable view from there, was the amazing craftsmanship of the structure. St. Luke's church has been standing for nearly two-hundred years. Some of the beams within the steeple still have bark on the outside of them. Given the size and the weight of them, and imagining the tools available at that time, makes the job those original builders did even more impressive. The founders of this congregation have left us an incredible gift and it's an honor to carry on with the maintenance of it for those who will follow.

While in the belfry, we were also able to learn something about the bell itself. The markings on the bell indicate that it was crafted by the Meneely Foundry, West Troy, NY. A quick

internet search showed that the company was founded in 1826, remained open until 1952 producing 65,000 bells during that time. If anyone has any information on when our bell may have been purchased, please pass that on. It would be fascinating to know how that bell got from New York into St. Luke's belfry. Blessings to all of you and your families for a safe and restful summer.

Peace,  
*Pastor Amy*

## Did You Know?

St. Luke's has two trained Lay Eucharistic Visitors! Linda Mertz and Dennis Faust have completed the training provided by the Synod and are able to visit people wherever they may be and deliver communion to them. If you would like to receive the sacrament from either Linda or Dennis, please reach out to them and schedule a visit. Linda can be reached via email at [lindamertz46@aim.com](mailto:lindamertz46@aim.com) or via telephone at 484-447-2024. Dennis can be contacted via email at [luckytownd@comcast.net](mailto:luckytownd@comcast.net) or via telephone at 484-948-8433.

## Redner's Tapes

Do you grocery shop at Redner's? Using your "save-a-tape" card and turning in your receipt at St Luke's earns us 1% of receipt totals. It also earns you gas/food discounts. This is an easy way to help yourself and St Luke's missions. Monies received from Redner's on a quarterly basis go to the Pastor's Help Fund benefitting those in need in our community. So, shop at Redner's, use your "save-a-tape" card, turn in the entire receipt to a collection box found in the mailroom, and be a part of helping our community. Contact Doug Killough 610-390-7127 with questions and concerns. Thank you.



## Mark Your Calendars –

**10TH ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL GOLF  
OUTING: FRI, SEPT 6 - see ENCLOSED FLYER**

- VOLUNTEER
- Be a SPONSOR, or connect the committee with a potential sponsor to discuss
- Come out and PLAY
- INVITE Players
- SHARE online or by flyer
- BE A PART OF THIS MILESTONE EVENT!
- Contact: Brendan Greer 610-306-4838 or Paula Bickelman 215-534-0003 or Rob Bickelman 610-842-2103



**Coffee Fellowship**

## Welcome Center

Volunteers are needed to host our Welcome Center. If you can help, please reach out to Linda Mertz ([lindamertz46@aol.com](mailto:lindamertz46@aol.com) and 484-447-2024) or sign-up in the Welcome Center. Thank you so much to those who have provided for us all this year. You are so very appreciated!



*A thank you letter from HEADstrong Foundation:*

Dear Deneen,

We can't thank you enough for hosting your Annual Chili Night supporting the HEADstrong Foundation! Your generous donation of \$150.00 means the world to us as it powers the HEADstrong Foundation to persist in its critical mission of enriching the lives of cancer patients and their families.

Throughout the last 17 years, it's been our privilege to uphold Nick's vision and accompany over 32,000 patients, offering unwavering support every step of the way. Nick's House offers 5,100 night stays providing patients access and affordability to cancer care. Because where someone lives should not determine if they live. Through additional programming including comfort kits, HEADstrong provides solace and relief letting them know that they are not alone.

On behalf of the HEADstrong Foundation and the countless families who rely on our services, we extend our heartfelt gratitude.

*We appreciate you!*

For Nick,

*Cheryl Colleluori*

Cheryl Colleluori  
President, Nick's mom

*P.S. All gifts are fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. HEADstrong Foundation is a 501©(3) nonprofit organization.*

## Cars, Coffee, and Christ



Cars, Coffee, and Christ will return to St. Luke's on July 27th, August 17<sup>th</sup>, and September 28<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 – 10:30 in the parking lot. You may already know of it - it is a

cruise-in where you can stop by and stay for a few minutes - or for the morning - and share some conversation and have some coffee, water or tea, along with light snacks.

There is no admission fee. We also provide a 'Prayer Request Box' where you can leave (confidential) prayer concerns. For other info, feel free to call or text Clark VanBuskirk at 610-585-3512

## St Luke's Directory Update

This summer a small team will be working to update the St Luke's directory. We know some of the information is out of date and we'd like to refresh the directory listing. If you have an old directory, please review it for yourself and your family and if there are updates to the listings, including email addresses, phone numbers or home addresses, please send them to either Judy Hunsberger @ [hunsbergerjl@aol.com](mailto:hunsbergerjl@aol.com) or to the church office at [stlukesobelisk.office@gmail.com](mailto:stlukesobelisk.office@gmail.com). We intend to be able to issue a new directory this fall. Thanks in advance for your help in these updates.

## Altar Guild

The Worship and Music Committee wants to restart the Altar Guild. We are looking for volunteers to setup and cleanup after communion on a Sunday morning. We are hoping to get at least 8 volunteers to lessen the frequency of serving but the more, the merrier! If you are interested in serving or have any questions about the responsibilities, please reach out to Joyce Brothers ([angelaib52@comcast.net](mailto:angelaib52@comcast.net)) or Dennis Faust ([luckytownd@comcast.net](mailto:luckytownd@comcast.net)). Many hands make light work!

# St. Luke's Women's Retreat



St. Luke's Women's Retreat will be at Canna Country Inn, Etters, PA. (about ten miles from Hershey). There are still spaces available if you would like to join us. The dates are October 11–13, 2024. The cost is \$150.00 per person; scholarships are available if needed. Check out their website at [www.cannainnbandb.com](http://www.cannainnbandb.com).

## Bishop Penman's Installation



Please save the date, September 14, 2024, for the installation of our new Bishop, the Rev. Bryan Penman. More information will be forthcoming.

## Food Needed!



**FEED THE HUNGRY**

Thank you for your generosity by sharing from your abundance, or giving as sacrifice, when you bring food and other household supplies for the Daily Bread Community Food Pantry. Supplies may be deposited in the Counting Room.

Envelopes are available to contribute by cash or check to the Pantry.

### Service Assistants for August and September:

#### August 4 –

Lay Reader: Gwen Semmens  
Greeters: Kevin & Charlotte Christman  
Altar Guild: Clark VanBuskirk

#### August 11 –

Lay Reader: Dennis Faust  
Greeters: Joyce Brothers, Spencer Brothers  
Altar Guild: Brenda Foose

#### August 18 –

Reader: Pastor Amy  
Greeters: Brenda Foose, Eve Gehringer  
Altar Guild: Charlotte Christman

#### August 25 –

Lay Reader: Jen Christman  
Greeters: Deneen Kratz, Ian Kratz  
Altar Guild: Eve Gehringer

#### September 1 –

Lay Reader: Clark VanBuskirk  
Greeters: Clark & Jane VanBuskirk  
Altar Guild: Clark VanBuskirk

#### September 8 –

Lay Reader: Joyce Brothers  
Greeters: Mike Way, Judy Moyer  
Altar Guild: Joyce Brothers

#### September 15 –

Reader: Pastor Amy  
Greeters: Marty Jordan  
Altar Guild: Jen Christman

#### September 22 –

Lay Reader: Rob Bickelman  
Greeters: Jen & Paul Christman  
Altar Guild: Brenda Foose

#### September 29 –

Lay Reader: Sharon Killough  
Greeters: Charlotte & Kevin Christman  
Altar Guild: Charlotte Christman

St.. Luke's Lutheran Church  
 Financial Information  
 As of June 30, 2024

<u>Cash:</u>	
Cash In Bank - Checking	\$ 38,776.01
Designated Funds - Savings	\$ 40,063.33
Endowment Funds Payback - Savings	\$ 10,985.14
Investments	\$ 375,153.16
Total Cash On Hand	<u>\$ 464,977.64</u>

<u>Revenues:</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
Current Giving	\$ 19,981.62	\$ 200,253.00
Fundraisers	\$ 2,798.08	\$ 41,300.00
Designated #	\$ 334.00	\$ 27,049.00
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 23,113.70</u>	<u>\$ 268,602.00</u>
<u>Expenses:</u>		
Pastor's Expenses	\$ 7,034.49	\$ 85,934.00
Worship & Music Expenses	\$ 1,222.67	\$ 19,250.00
Faith Formation	\$ -	\$ 1,300.00
Discipleship	\$ 250.00	\$ 3,500.00
Office Expenses	\$ 2,177.69	\$ 39,830.00
Property Expenses*	\$ 1,757.15	\$ 83,688.00
Fundraisers	\$ 1,267.00	\$ 21,600.00
Designated	\$ 250.00	\$ 13,500.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 13,959.00</u>	<u>\$ 268,602.00</u>
Net Deficit	<u>\$ 9,154.70</u>	<u>\$</u>

Please remember St. Luke's in your weekly giving. Consistent giving is crucial to meet the mission of our Small Church with a Big Mission. Electronically give through Tithely.com or Paypal.com -select St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Zieglerville PA – Email: payables@stlukeslutheran.church

A detailed copy of the balance sheet and income statement are posted on the bulletin board across from the Pastor's office. Questions or more information, contact Deneen Rhoads-Kratz, Treasurer, at dirkratz@dejazzd

Your gifts meet the needs of God's people. And that's not all. Your gifts also cause many people to thank God.

2 Corinthians 9:12 NIRV



Do you like to sing? Can you play a musical instrument? You are invited to share your musical talent at the 9:00 a.m. worship services on Sunday mornings by providing special music. Please see Audrey Reinhart or call the church office (610-754-7762) if you are interested in participating in this ministry.



## Pickleball Anyone??


Pickleball is growing in our region, with substantial popularity nationwide. There are new courts being built in Limerick, along with courts at Lower Salford Park and East Coventry Municipal building. If you are interested in playing (for fun), please let Jane or Clark VanBuskirk know (610-585-3512 or [crv0262@comcast.net](mailto:crv0262@comcast.net)). If there's enough interest we could start a group that plays in rotation in the area. If you'd like to learn to play, visit Limerick Township page, they have beginner courses for all age groups.



The deadline for the September newsletter is August 11, 2024. Articles may be placed in the secretary's mailbox or emailed to [office@stlukeslutheran.church](mailto:office@stlukeslutheran.church).

As you vacation this summer, please remember to continue to support St. Luke's. Our Mission to Make Christ Known carries on.

# August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 8:00am Property Committee Mtg.
						
4 9:00am Holy Communion 10:15am Faith Formation	5	6 (Conference Committee postponed until September 3)	7	8 7:00pm Missions /Discipleship Committee (zoom)	9	10
11 9:00am Holy Communion 10:15am Faith Formation	12	13 7:00pm Worship & Music Committee (zoom)	14	15 5:30-6:30pm Community Dinner	16	17 8:30-10:30am "Cars, Coffee, & Christ"
18 9:00am Holy Communion – Praise Service 10:15am Faith Formation 10:30am "Messenger" Rehearsal	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 9:00am Holy Communion – Outdoor Service (weather permitting) 10:15am Faith Formation	26	27 7:00pm Council	28	29	30	31

# September 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 9:00am Holy Communion 10:15am Faith Formation	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 7:00pm Conference Committee (Zoom)	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 11:00am Golf Outing – Hickory Valley Golf Club	<b>7</b> 8:00am Property Comm. Mtg.  2:00-7:00pm Hall Rental
<b>8</b> 9:00am Holy Communion 10:15am Faith Formation	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 7:00am Worship & Music Committee (zoom)	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7:00pm Missions /Discipleship Committee (zoom)	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Installation of new Bishop, Rev. Bryan Penman
<b>15</b> 9:00am Holy Communion – Praise Service 10:15am Faith Formation 11:00am-2:00pm Hall Rental	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 5:30-6:30pm Community Dinner	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:00am Holy Communion 10:15am Faith Formation	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 7:00pm Council	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 8:30-10:30am “Cars, Coffee, & Christ” Lower Frederick Community Day
<b>29</b> 9:00am Holy Communion – 10:15am Faith Formation	<b>30</b>	