

The Good News

St. Luke's Lutheran Church, (Obelisk) 3206 Big Road, Zieglerville, PA 19492 November 2025
Website Address: www.stlukeslutheran.church Email address: StLukesObelisk.Office@gmail.com



St. Luke's Lutheran
A little church with a big mission

Our mission: To know Jesus
and make Him known.

St. Luke's Worship Schedule

Sundays:

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion (church building)

10:15 a.m. Faith Formation

3rd Sunday – Praise Service in Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, November 26 at 7:00 p.m. –
Joint worship with Peace in Zion U.C.C. at
Peace in Zion U.C.C.



We will have a joint service
with our friends from Peace
in Zion U.C.C. on
November 26th at 7:00
p.m. at Peace in Zion

U.C.C. Pastor Amy from St. Luke's and Rev.
Bob Fogal from Peace in Zion will lead the
service, with Pr. Amy delivering the message.
There will be a period of fellowship after the
service.

Please come out and start your Thanksgiving
celebration in worship.



Dear St. Luke's family
and friends,

Believe it or not, the
calendar now says November! As the days
grow shorter and the air takes on that familiar
crispness, our thoughts naturally turn toward
gratitude. Thanksgiving is around the corner,
but gratitude, for people of faith, is not
confined to a single season or holiday. It's the
rhythm of our life together in Christ.

The Apostle Paul writes to the Thessalonians,
"*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give
thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of
God in Christ Jesus for you*" (1 Thessalonians
5:16-18). Notice that Paul doesn't say "give
thanks **for** all circumstances," but rather "**in**"
them. Gratitude doesn't require pretending that
everything is perfect. It's about trusting that
God is present and faithful even when life feels
uncertain, difficult, or incomplete. And as our
beloved former Bishop Patricia Davenport
always replies when asked, "How are you?" She
says without missing a beat, "I'm grateful!"
In our congregation, I see daily reasons and
reminders of this kind of gratitude. I see it in the
volunteers who show up early to prepare
Welcome Center. I see it in the quiet
faithfulness of those who pray for others
through our Prayer List and Messenger Board. I
see it in the prayer shawls, work on the

property, the Community Dinner, and in the many volunteer hours given to help the Mertz family this past month.

Gratitude, at its heart, is an act of faith. It reorients us from scarcity to abundance, from worry to trust, from isolation to community. When we give thanks, we acknowledge that all we have—and all we are—is a gift from God's gracious hand.

So this month, I invite you to take time each day to name a few things for which you're grateful. Perhaps even make it a prayer practice:

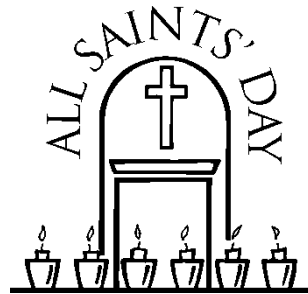
"Gracious God, for the gift of this day, for the people who love me, for your mercy that never ends—I'm grateful." Amen.

Pastor Amy



Poinsettias

Orders are being taken for poinsettia plants which will enhance the beauty of the sanctuary for our Christmas Eve worship services. The cost for a red or white poinsettia in a 6-inch pot is \$7.75. Envelopes to order poinsettias are available in the narthex and the mailroom. Please complete the outside of the envelope, place your check or cash in the envelope, seal the envelope and place it in the regular offering plate. The plants may be taken home after the Christmas Eve Service. Any plants remaining after January 1 will be delivered to home-bound people. The deadline for ordering is December 7, 2025.



On **November 2**, All Saints Sunday, the people who entered the Heavenly Kingdom since All Saints Sunday in 2024 were remembered. A bell was tolled for each person and a flower was given to each family.

These people include:

Joseph Reiter – October 31, 2024
Ruth Rhoads – November 14, 2024
Michael Hunsberger – December 8, 2024
Sharyn Seddon – February 20, 2025
Terry Mest – June 12, 2025
Fern Richard – October 10, 2025
Linda Mertz – October 17, 2025



In the sure and certain hope of the resurrection, we share the news of the death of Fern Richard on October 10, 2025. The graveside service for Fern was held on Wednesday, October 15 at 11:00 a.m. Please keep Fern's family in your prayers.

In the sure and certain hope of the resurrection, a funeral service was held for Linda Mertz on Saturday, October 25th at the church at 11:00 a.m. Linda died on October 17, 2025. Please keep Linda's husband Barry, her sons, and her friends and family in your prayers.



Thanksgiving Eve Choir

We are assembling a choir for the Thanksgiving Eve Service on November 26th at 7:00 p.m. at Peace in Zion U.C.C. Choir members from Peace in Zion U.C.C. will be joining us. Please let Audrey know if you would like to participate.

Offering Envelopes



A Note from the Financial Secretary:

Thank you for your generous giving to St. Luke's Lutheran Church.

Once again church envelopes have arrived for 2026 for your convenience.

***With a minimum number of envelopes required for 2026, your giving number may have changed.**

You will find them in your mailbox, in the mailroom. The envelopes have your personal giving number, along with categories to select your specific category. This ensures accurate record keeping.

If you have not received envelopes and you would like them, please contact me. Thank you for your continued giving; this helps Our Little Church with a Big Mission.

Peggy Brendlinger
610-310-6407

First Community Health Fair; A Success

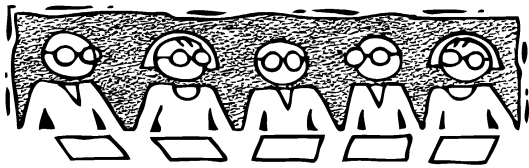


On Friday October 24th St Luke's held a free community health fair. Over 50 people attended and were able to have free blood pressure, blood sugar tests, lung function tests, grip strength, balance and peripheral vascular risk tests. Additionally, Skippack Pharmacy provided over 30 free vaccines.

Physical Therapist Dr Harry Linowski provided a talk about minimizing falls, Deborah Jankowski gave a talk about the offerings at Montgomery County Office of Aging and Dr Joanne Sullivan talked about nutrition and eating for good health.

Representatives were available to talk about Medicare, Long term care insurance and Boyertown Meals on Wheels. Our own Donna Usavage provided information on Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy and how we can care for creation. Senator Pennychuick's office was represented as was Maternity Care Coalition and nurses from Pottstown Hospital to provide information on Breast Cancer Awareness.

There were plenty of free snacks for all. If you missed it this year, please be on the lookout for it in October 2026!



Council Report

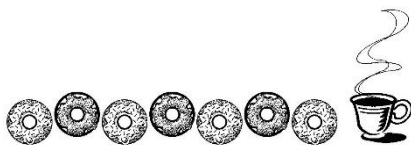
Congregational Council Highlights October 2025

We held the Congregational Council meeting on October 21. We moved forward with several pieces of business:

- We had our first in person meeting with our new treasurer, Penny O'Donnell, and reviewed the financial state of the church with her.
- Approved one Fellowship Hall rental.
- Reviewed the church calendar through January.
- Had a discussion on the newly introduced sung liturgy.
- Update on the task force reviewing the Constitution and Bylaws.
- Approved the Christmas Eve service time of 4:00 PM.
- Recruited service assistants for the funeral for Linda Mertz.

If you have any questions about what's happening with the Congregational Council, please reach out to me.

Dennis Faust
Congregational Council President



Welcome Center

If you would like to serve as a Welcome Center host, please sign up in the Welcome Center.

SEPA Generosity Team offers information on Qualified Charitable Deduction (QCD)

The current tax law indicates that when a person reaches 73, they must take their required minimum distribution (RMD) from their traditional IRA accounts. This applies to the Fidelity (Portico) balance as well. The amount of the distribution is determined by the balance of the account and your life expectancy determined by the IRS.

In the past, the RMD age was 70 ½.

Under the new law, a person can make a charitable contribution from their IRA account at 70 ½, they do not have to wait until 73. The taxpayer must inform the trustee of the IRA (i.e. the bank or investment company where the IRA is held) that they want to make a charitable contribution from their IRA. This is called the QCD. The trustee will be given the name and address of the nonprofit organization. By doing this, the amount of the QCD is deducted from the total distribution and sent to the nonprofit organization.

For instance, if your RMD is \$25,000 and you decide to give \$10,000 of that to your church or other nonprofit, you will only be taxed on \$15,000. This reduces your adjusted gross income; you cannot deduct a charitable contribution as an itemized deduction, since it has already been deducted from income.

If you have questions about this, please discuss this further with your tax advisor and/or investment professional.

Synod Update

October 2025

Good News from the Margins Book Signing

October 25 + 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

United Lutheran Seminary, Brossman Center,
Lull Lounge

7241 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia

Join The Reverends Ruben Duran and Violet C. Little, along with Bishop Bryan Penman and those who have contributed to the newly released, “*Good News from the Margins*” for a book signing and conversation. A complimentary copy of the book will be provided for each congregation in the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod along with information on how other copies might be obtained.

Book Launch Event

Save the Date!

SEPA Pastor, Rev. Dr. Alina Gayeuskis Book
Launch

Beyond The Stained Glass Ceiling: Women
Clergy In A Still-Patriarchal Church

March 3, 2026 + 7:00 pm

United Lutheran Seminary, Philadelphia
Campus, Benbow Auditorium

Reformation Pilgrimage to Germany Planned for 2026

Pastor Julie Dewerth of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in King of Prussia is planning to lead a pilgrimage to Germany in June 2026.

The trip is open to everyone. The itinerary includes many of the important sites of Martin Luther. JUNE 15 - 24, 2026 from Philadelphia, PA (PHL) - Package Price: \$4690. I just did a similar tour on the roots of Methodism, and this is a great opportunity to learn about the roots of Lutheranism.

Investment Committee

This year on Synod Council, I'm a member of the Investment Committee, which oversees the

investments of the Synod (over \$15M). The income from those investments helps fund many of the programs within the Synod. We will be meeting in person at the United Lutheran Seminary on October 29th with the Synod's Financial Advisors.

Dennis Faust

SEPA Synod Council member



Another successful Trunk or Treat event took place on October 26, 2025. We had a dozen decorated cars and the Upper Frederick Fire Truck, enticing kids from all over our community. We estimated that 70-80 costumed characters showed up to collect candy, gobble some delicious food, and enjoy the beautiful fall afternoon! A big Thank You to all who helped offer this great community event.



Upper Frederick Fire Company Pancake Breakfast: “Breakfast With Santa”

On Saturday, December 6, 2025 the Upper Frederick Volunteer Fire Company will be holding their annual Pancake Breakfast fundraiser in our Fellowship Hall. Pancakes and sausages will be served from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Tickets can be bought in advance or at the door on the day of the breakfast! Bring your children to enjoy a delicious breakfast cooked by the Upper Frederick Fire Company and have a visit with Santa.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church Financial Information as of September 30, 2024

Cash:

Cash In Bank - Checking	\$ 34,683.39
Designated Funds - Savings	\$ 42,698.70
Savings Account	\$ 9,897.57
Investments	<u>\$400,102.33</u>
Total Cash On Hand	<u>\$487,381.99</u>

Revenues:

	<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>ACTUAL YTD</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
Current Giving	\$ 11,457.26	\$ 158,990.72	\$210,350.00
Fundraisers	\$ 23,251.32	\$ 56,411.47	\$ 58,300.00
Designated	\$ 190.00	\$ 4,156.97	\$ 6,700.00
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 34,898.58</u>	<u>\$ 219,559.16</u>	<u>\$ 275,350.00</u>

Expenses:

Pastor's Expenses	\$ 7,147.94	\$ 63,973.21	\$ 87,678.00
Worship & Music Expenses	\$ 1,242.06	\$ 12,908.29	\$ 18,321.00
Faith Formation	\$ -		\$ 20,550.00
Discipleship	\$ 119.98	\$ 3,260.89	\$ 4,000.00
Office Expenses	\$ 2,432.34	\$ 23,951.94	\$ 41,028.00
Property Expenses	\$ 2,595.93	\$ 79,889.41	\$118,132.00
Fundraisers	\$ 7,137.09	\$ 32,365.05	\$ 25,600.00
Designated	\$ 350.00	\$ 4,134.16	\$ 10,100.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 21,025.34</u>	<u>\$220,482.95</u>	<u>\$325,409.00</u>

Net Deficit	\$ 13,873.24	(\$ 923.79)	(\$ 50,059.00)
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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 Titely.com or Paypal.com-select St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Zieglerville PA – email stluketreasurer@gmail.com.

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 Penny O'Donnell, treasurer at stlukesobelisk.treasurer.com.

"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"

November



						1 8:00am Property Committee Workday (weather permitting) 9:00am-12:00pm – Diakonia Class
2 9:00am Holy Communion 10:15am Faith Formation All Saint's Sunday	3 7:00pm Mutual Ministry Mtg. (Zoom)	4 7:00pm Conference Committee (Zoom)	5 9:30-10:30 Bible Study	6	7	8
9 9:00am Holy Communion 10:15am Faith Formation	10	11 2:00pm Worship & Music Comm.	12 9:30-10:30 Bible Study	13 7:00pm Missions Committee Mtg. (Zoom)	14	15 9:00am-12:00pm – Diakonia Class
16 9:00am Holy Communion Praise Service 10:15am Faith Formation 10:30am <i>Messenger</i> Rehearsal	17	18 10:00am Fiscal Management Committee Mtg. 2:00pm Worship Comm. Mtg. 7:00pm Council	19 9:30-10:30 Bible Study	20 5:30-6:30pm Community Dinner	21	22 9:00am-12:00pm – Diakonia Class
23 9:00am Holy Communion 10:15am Faith Formation	24	25	26 7:00pm Joint Thanksgiving Eve Service at Peace in Zion U.C.C.	27  Thanksgiving	28	29 9:00am-12:00pm – Diakonia Class Hall Rental (Private) 5:00-9:00 pm
30 9:00am Holy Communion 10:30am Book Club Meeting Advent 1						

November 2 –

Greeters: Joyce Brothers, Spencer Brothers
 Lay Reader: Dennis Faust
 Altar Guild: Eve Gehringer
 Welcome Center: Charlotte Christman
 Counters: Pat Stonerook, Jerry Jordan

November 9 –

Greeters: Marty Jordan, Eve Gehringer
 Lay Reader: Logan Greer
 Altar Guild: Clark VanBuskirk
 Welcome Center: Julie Kinzel
 Counters: Peggy Brendlinger, Judy Hunsberger

November 16 -

Greeters: Kevin & Charlotte Christman
 Reader: Pr. Amy

Altar Guild: Brenda Foose

Welcome Center: Jen Christman

Counters: Doug & Sharon Killough, Pat Stonerook

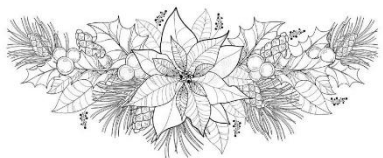
November 23 -

Greeters: Paul & Jen Christman
 Lay Reader: Jerry Jordan
 Altar Guild: Joyce Brothers
 Welcome Center: Gwen Semmens, Donna Usavage
 Counters: Mike Way, Randi Rose

November 30

Greeters: Clark & Jane VanBuskirk
 Lay Reader: Joyce Brothers
 Altar Guild: Jen Christman
 Welcome Center: Nicole Greer
 Counters: Clark & Jane VanBuskirk, Jerry Jordan

December 2025

	1	2 7:00pm Conference Committee	3 9:30-10:30 Bible Study	4 Hall Rental (HH) 9:00 am -4:00 pm	5 UFFC set-up for "Breakfast With Santa" Pancake fundraiser	6 "Breakfast With Santa" UFFC fundraiser 9:00am-12:00pm Diakonia Class
7 9:00am Holy Communion 10:15am Christmas Tree decorating Hall Rental (HH) 11:00 am -3:00 pm Advent 2	8	9 2:00pm Worship & Music Committee	10 9:30-10:30 Bible Study	11 7:00pm Discipleship/Missions Committee	12	13
14 9:00am Holy Communion 10:15am Faith Formation Advent 3	15	16 9:00am Fiscal Management Committee Mtg. 7:00pm Council	17 9:30-10:30 Bible Study	18 5:30-6:30pm Community Dinner	19	20
21 9:00am Holy Communion – Praise Service 10:15am Faith Formation 2:00pm "Blue Christmas" service Advent 4	22	23	24 4:00pm Holy Communion Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26	27
28 9:30am Joint worship with Peace in Zion U.C.C. at St. Luke's Hall Rental (private) 11:00am to 6:00pm	29	30	31 New Year's Eve			

December 7 –

Greeters: Mike Way, Judy Moyer
Lay Reader: Jen Chrustman
Altar Guild: Eve Gehringer
Welcome Center: Pat Stonerook, Sandi Kelly
Counters: Marty Jordan, Mike Way

December 14 –

Greeters: Marty Jordan, Brenda Foose
Lay Reader: Charlotte Christman
Altar Guild: Clark VanBuskirk
Welcome Center: Jen Christman
Counters: Randi Rose, Pat Stonerook

December 21 –

Greeters: Deneen Kratz, Ian Kratz
Reader: Pastor Amy
Altar Guild: Brenda Foose
Welcome Center: Paula & Rob Bickelman
Counters: Jerry Jordan, Doug & Sharon Killough

December 24 –

Greeters: volunteers
Reader: Gwen Semmens
Altar Guild: volunteer

December 28 –

Greeters: Kevin & Charlotte Christman
Altar Guild: Joyce Brothers
Welcome Center:
Counters: Judy Hunsberger, Mike Way