

The Good News

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St. Luke's Lutheran Church, (Obelisk) 3206 Big Road Zieglerville, PA 19492 September 2025  
Website Address: [www.stlukeslutheran.church](http://www.stlukeslutheran.church) E-mail address: [StLukesObelisk.Office@gmail.com](mailto:StLukesObelisk.Office@gmail.com)  
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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:

September 7, 2025

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion

10:30 a.m. St. Luke's Thrift Store Mtg.

September 14, 2025

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion

10:15 a.m. Faith Formation

September 21, 2025

9:00 a.m. Praise Service (Fellowship Hall)

10:15 a.m. Faith Formation: Book Club Mtg.

11:00 a.m. Church Softball Game (Rain date:
September 28th)

September 28, 2025

9:00 a.m. Holy Communion – Harvest Festival
Outdoor Service (weather permitting)

10:15 a.m. Faith Formation

(Rain date: 11:00 a.m. Church Softball Game)



Dear St. Luke's
family and friends -

As the long summer
days give way to
the first signs of fall
- the crisp morning

air, the return of school routines, the changing
leaves - I find myself reflecting on the beauty of
new beginnings. After spending 25 years
working in public education, September always
feels like a second New Year, a time to reset, to
start again, and now, to re-center ourselves in
God's promises.

In our life together as a congregation, this
season offers us new opportunities to grow in
faith and service. Faith Formation activities
resume, Bible study class on Wednesday
morning begins again, and our worship life
takes on new energy as more people return
from summer travels. For those who are
lifelong members or those returning to continue
exploring their faith, know that all are welcome
here, and there is a place for you in this
community.

One of the great gifts of our Lutheran tradition
is the reminder that each day is a new
opportunity to live in the grace of our baptism.
As Martin Luther wrote, "A Christian life is
nothing else than a daily baptism, once begun
and ever continued." Each day we are called to

die to sin and rise to new life in Christ. That means we are *always* being renewed, no matter our age, or where we are on our individual faith journeys. This is true for each of us, and it is true for the St. Luke's congregation.

So, I invite you this fall to step into something new. Join a ministry you've never tried before. We will be starting a Book Club, a Conversation Club, a Health Fair, and exploring the possibility of starting a Thrift Store here. Reach out to someone you haven't seen in a while. Invite a friend, neighbor, or loved one to join you. Open your heart to where the Spirit is leading, even (or especially) if it pushes you outside your comfort zone. God is doing a new thing in and among us (Isaiah 43:19)—do you perceive it?

Peace,
Pastor Amy



This October, the women of St. Luke's will be heading to Cambridge, Maryland for our annual Retreat. The dates are October 3-5th. There are a total of nineteen women going; however, we have room for 1 – 2 more people if you are interested.

If you need a ride, we can buddy you up with someone, or if you need help with the payment, we do have scholarships.

This is a fun filled, spiritual, and fellowship time with our friends and family.

If you are interested, please contact Pastor Amy, Brenda Foose, Deneen Kratz, Peggy Brendlinger or Charlotte Christman.



Council Happenings

July/August 2025

We held Congregational Council meetings on July 15th and August 19th. We moved forward with several pieces of business:

- Regretfully, we accepted the resignation of our treasurer Deneen Kratz and began the search for her replacement. With no prospective candidates within the congregation, we will be looking to hire someone for this important job.
- Approved two Hall rentals.
- Reviewed the church calendar through November.
- Reviewed the Facilities Rental agreement as modified by the task force.
- Created a task force to review St. Luke's Constitution and By-Laws. If you would like to be a member of this task force, please reach out to Dennis Faust or Pastor Amy.
- Discussed creating a St. Luke's Thrift Store
- Discussed the St. Luke's Health Fair
- Set the date for a St. Luke's Softball Game to September 21st (rain date of September 28th)

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

Dennis Faust
Congregational Council President



St. Luke's Golf Outing

Hickory Valley Golf Club: Friday, Sept. 5th

- ⌚ **VOLUNTEER** – If you would like to volunteer, please contact Eve Gehringer
- ⌚ **Be a SPONSOR**, or connect the committee with a potential sponsor to discuss – call Paula Bickelman (215-534-0003)

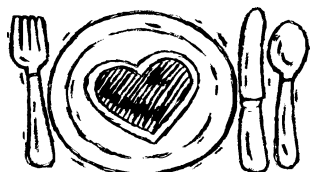
Save the Date: St. Luke's Health Fair

October 24th - 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.



We are putting together a health fair for the community. Are you interested in feeling good about your health, maybe

learning something new or different that will enhance your well-being? Come to the St. Luke's Health Fair and find out more. Invite your neighbors and friends. There will be advice on better eating, blood pressure screenings, fitness information, a vaccine clinic and much more. Looking forward to seeing you there.



The next Community Dinner will be held September 18th at 5:30

PM. This month's dinner will be chicken meat pie, salad, bread, and desserts. There are hands on the bulletin board in the narthex if you'd like to contribute some of the ingredients to help make the meal. If you would be willing to help, please reach out to Marty Jordan.

Harvest Festival Food Drive



We will celebrate Harvest Festival on September 28, 2025, and will be holding a food drive. Please bring any non-perishable food supplies and leave them at the foot of the cross in the Sanctuary. After Harvest Festival, the food gathered will be delivered to our friends at the Daily Bread Community Food Pantry. The shelves at the food pantry are becoming quite bare. Please donate whatever you can. If you are looking for suggestions for items to donate, here is a list of what is in short supply.

Cream soups	Broth
Skillet dinners	Stuffing
Gravy	Jelly
Juice	Drinks
Canned Peas	Canned tomatoes
Baked beans	Canned Pasta
Pasta sauce	Shelf Stable Meat
Misc. canned veggies	Soup
Baking needs	Canned potatoes
Boxed potatoes	Canned fruit
Oatmeal	Rice
Tuna	Crackers

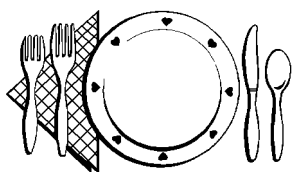
Thanks for your support of this event!



Daily Bread Community
Food Pantry

Day of Service

Anyone who has a need for volunteers to help out with tasks at their home, please contact Marty Jordan or other members of the Mission/Discipleship Committee. The date of the Day of Service has yet to be scheduled. Tasks can be things like stacking firewood, weeding flower beds, or cleaning up leaves.



Mission Committee Team Impact

The Mission Committee Community Meal is having a tremendous impact on our local community. The efforts are not going unnoticed and are greatly appreciated.

On Thursday evening, June 19th there were over 55 folks in attendance, including:

- A group of women who had not seen each other in a while and were clearly excited to have a meal together
- A couple of individuals who would not have had a fresh, homemade meal
- Meals for individuals who had literally just got off work and had not yet eaten
- Extra Meals for a couple of attendees
- Fresh Meal and Coleslaw, for 89 needy individuals in Pottstown, part of the daily community meals provided by the interfaith churches around High & Hanover Streets. Direct feedback from Janet Nash at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Pottstown: "We served 89 today, your Pulled Pork and Coleslaw were a hit!!"

St Luke's 'Little Church with a Big Mission' impacted over 140 individuals with the efforts you all provided, thank you for your generous donations of goods and time. Also, a special "Thank You" to the Daily Bread Community Food Pantry for their generous donations.



Constitution/Bylaws Task Force



At the August meeting, the Congregational Council created a task force to look at the constitution and bylaws of St. Luke's. Both documents are old.

The constitution was last modified in 2015 and the bylaws were last amended in 1998! These are the governing documents of our congregation and help set the direction for the life and work of our congregation. The task force is looking for input from the entire congregation. If you would like to be a part of this task force, please reach out to Dennis Faust or Pastor Amy and we will get you into the process.



Welcome Center Volunteers are Needed!

Volunteers are needed to host our Welcome Center. If you can help, please reach out to Linda Mertz (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!

Upper Frederick Township Community Day Saturday, October 4, 2025



We are looking for volunteers to help St. Luke's with the Community Day Event at the Township Building. St. Luke's will be hosting a "Kindness

Table/Tent." The event is from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. You don't have to volunteer for the entire event. Anyone interested can speak to Dennis Faust or Marty Jordan.



Synod Update – August 2025

Churchwide Assembly

The 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly was held July 28 - Aug. 2, 2025, at the Phoenix Convention Center in Phoenix, Ariz.

The ELCA Churchwide Assembly, the primary decision-making body of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, is a process of communal spiritual discernment. When the ELCA Churchwide Assembly convenes, its voting members meet with confidence in God's grace around word and water, wine, and bread, to carry on their work on behalf of the entire church. Over the course of the assembly, voting members:

- Hear reports and review the work of churchwide officers, leaders, and units.
- Receive and consider proposals from synod assemblies.

- Elect officers, board members, and other leaders as specified by the constitution or bylaws.
- Establish ELCA churchwide policy.
- Worship together.
- Adopt a budget.
- Conduct other business related to the ELCA churchwide organization.

Bishop Yehiel Curry was elected July 30th to serve a six-year term as presiding bishop of the ELCA. He will be replacing Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. Bishop Curry will be the first Black presiding bishop of the ELCA. He has served as bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod since 2019. Also, Rev. Lucille "CeCee" Mills was elected August 1st to serve a six-year term as secretary of the ELCA.



Called by Faith: Caring for Creation

Several members of the SEPA Care of Creation

Ministry Team have become ELCA Creation Care Ambassadors by getting trained by Blessed Tomorrow. Members have volunteered to give 45- or 60-minute presentations, "Called by Faith: Caring for Creation" at your congregation during an adult education time, small group, or special event. This group will be at St. Luke's on October 12th, to share their important work during our Faith Formation hour.



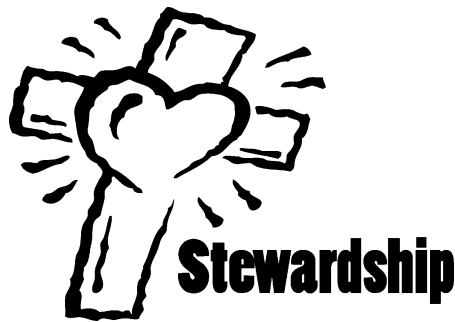
St. Luke's Lutheran Church Financial Information as of July 31, 2025

Cash:	
Cash In Bank - Checking	\$ 30,381.37
Designated Funds - Savings	\$ 41,091.88
Savings Account	\$ 9,839.85
Investments	<u>\$400,102.33</u>
Total Cash on Hand	<u>\$481,415.43</u>

Revenues:	Actual	Actual Year to Date	Budget
Current Giving	\$ 11,655.85	\$ 131,992.18	\$ 210,350.00
Fundraisers	\$ 9,187.50	\$ 17,406.49	\$ 58,300.00
Designated #	\$ 798.74	\$ 3,682.97	\$ 6,700.00
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 21,642.09</u>	<u>\$ 153,081.64</u>	<u>\$275,350.00</u>

Expenses:			
Pastor's Expenses	\$ 7,147.94	\$ 49,677.33	\$ 87,677.00
Worship & Music Expenses	\$ 1,375.82	\$ 9,528.54	\$ 18,321.00
Faith Formation	\$ -	-	\$ 20,550.00
Discipleship	\$ 25.00	\$ 2,975.91	\$ 4,000.00
Office Expenses	\$ 2,763.08	\$ 19,575.33	\$ 41,028.00
Property Expenses	\$ 4,276.55	\$ 73,789.54	\$ 118,132.00
Fundraisers	\$ -	\$ 814.95	\$ 25,600.00
Designated	\$ 704.16	\$ 3,534.16	\$ 10,100.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 16,292.55</u>	<u>\$259,895.76</u>	<u>\$ 325,408.00</u>

Net Surplus/Deficit	\$ 5,349.54	\$ (6,814.12)	\$ (50,058.00)
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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 [Tithely.com](https://tithely.com) or [Paypal.com](https://paypal.com) – select St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Zieglerville, PA - email St. Luke's stlukesobelisk.treasurer@gmail.com

A detailed copy of the balance sheet and income statement are posted on the bulletin board across from the Pastor's Office. If you have any questions or would like more information, contact Deneen Rhoads-Kratz, treasurer, at stlukesobelisk.treasurer@gmail.com.

September 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day	2 7:00pm Conference Committee Mtg. (zoom)	3	4	5 St. Luke's Golf Outing – Hickory Valley Golf Club	6 8:00am Property Comm. Work Day 2:00pm Hall Rental
7 9:00am Holy Communion 10:30am Thrift Store Mtg.	8	9 2:00pm Worship & Music Comm. Mtg. (zoom)	10	11 10:00am-1:00pm Helping Hands Training Session 7:00pm Missions/Discipleship Committee (zoom)	12	13
14 9:00am Holy Communion 10:15am Faith Formation 1:30-3:30pm Leydich Burial Grounds Asso. Mtg.	15	16 7:00pm Congregational Council Mtg.	17 9:30am Bible Study	18 5:30-6:30pm Community Dinner	19	20
21 9:00am Holy Communion – Praise Service 10:15am Faith Formation: Book Club Mtg. 11:00am Church Softball Game	22	23	24 9:30am Bible Study	25	26	27
28 9:00am Holy Communion 10:15am Faith Formation (Rain date: 11:00am Church Softball Game) Harvest Festival	29	30	         			

September 7 –

Greeters: Paul & Jen Christman
Lay Reader: Charlotte Christman
Altar Guild: Joyce Brothers
Welcome Center: volunteers needed
Counters: Jane & Clark VanBuskirk, Pat Stonerook

September 14 –

Greeters: Kevin & Charlotte Christman
Lay Reader: Brendan Greer
Altar Guild: Jen Christman
Welcome Center: Julie Kinzel
Counters: Jerry Jordan, Mike Way



September 21 –

Greeters: Eve Gehringer, Brenda Foose
Reader: Pr. Amy
Altar Guild: Brenda Foose
Welcome Center: Pat Stonerook, Sandi Kelly
Counters: Pat Stonerook, Judy Hunsberger

September 28 –

Greeters: Mike Way, Judy Moyer
Lay Reader: Sharon Killough
Altar Guild: Joyce Brothers
Welcome Center: Gwen Semmens, Donna Usavage
Counters: Gwen Semmens, Peggy Brendlinger



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 9:30am Bible Study	2	3 Women's Retreat begins	4 8:00am Property Committee Mtg. Women's Retreat continues
5 9:00am Holy Communion 10:15am Faith Formation Women's Retreat ends World Communion	6	7 7:00pm Conference Committee Mtg. (Zoom)	8 9:30am Bible Study	9 7:00pm Discipleship/Missions Committee Mtg. (Zoom)	10	11
12 9:00am Holy Communion 10:15am Faith Formation Blessing of the Animals	13	14 7:00pm Worship & Music Committee Mtg. (Zoom)	15 9:30am Bible Study	16 5:30-6:30pm Community Dinner	17	18
19 9:00am Holy Communion – Praise Service 10:15am Faith Formation 10:30am <i>Messenger</i> Rehearsal	20	21 7:00pm Council	22 9:30am Bible Study	23	24 9:00am-1:00pm Health Fair at St. Luke's	25 2:00pm Hall Rental
26 9:00am Holy Communion 10:15am Faith Formation Reformation Sunday	27	28	29 9:30am Bible Study	30	31 Halloween	

October 5 –

Greeters: Paul & Jen Christman
Lay Reader: Clark VanBuskirk
Altar Guild: Joyce Brothers
Welcome Center: volunteers needed
Counters: Jane & Clark VanBuskirk, Pat Stonerook

October 12 –

Greeters: Kevin & Charlotte Christman
Lay Reader: Rob Bickelman
Altar Guild: Jen Christman
Welcome Center: Julie Kinzel
Counters: Jerry Jordan, Mike Way

October 19 –

Greeters: Eve Gehringer, Brenda Foose
Reader: Pr. Amy
Altar Guild: Brenda Foose
Welcome Center: Pat Stonerook, Sandi Kelly
Counters: Pat Stonerook, Judy Hunsberger

October 26 –

Greeters: Mike Way, Judy Moyer
Lay Reader: Charlotte Christman
Altar Guild: Joyce Brothers
Welcome Center: Gwen Semmens, Donna Usavage
Counters: Gwen Semmens, Peggy Brendlinger

Meet the Presiding Bishop-Elect of the ELCA



He spoke to the assembly about his initial hesitation in accepting that first ministry role. “I’m what a return on your investment looks like,” he said. “Perhaps I’m out there in one of you. I never saw myself as good enough, so for two years, I said no. I finally said yes. When I said yes, your support, this church’s support, of that ministry meant everything. So if you want to know what your benevolence dollars look like, it looks like me. And I want to say thank you. Thank you for your investment.”

Curry has served as bishop of the ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod since 2019. He previously served as mission developer (2009-2012) and pastor (2012-2019) of Shekinah. He received a Bachelor of Arts from Lewis University in Romeoville, Ill., in 1995 and a Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) in 2013. LSTC is one of seven ELCA seminaries.

(Reprinted from Living Lutheran: Yehiel Curry elected presiding bishop of the ELCA - Living Lutheran)

Yehiel Curry was elected July 30 to serve a six-year term as presiding bishop of the ELCA. The election took place during the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly held July 28–Aug. 2, 2025, at the Phoenix Convention Center. Curry was elected on the fifth ballot. There were 799 votes cast, with 400 votes needed for an election. Curry received 562 votes, and Kevin Strickland, bishop of the ELCA Southeastern Synod, received 237 votes. Curry will be the first Black presiding bishop of the ELCA.

Speaking to the assembly after his election, Curry reflected on his membership at Shekinah Chapel in Riverdale, Ill., where he eventually became a lay mission developer. During that time, he participated in the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries program, which prepares individuals for ordained ministry in the ELCA, with a focus on emerging ministry contexts like ethnic-specific, multicultural, and both rural and urban settings.

