

St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church

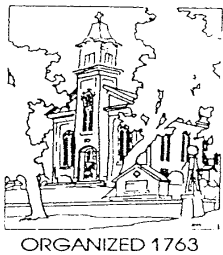
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Church Office – (610)-847-5630

Church e-mail: - stlukeferndale@ptd.net

A Newsletter for Members and Friends of St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church
To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. Timothy

January 2025



Mission & Vision Statement

The Purpose and Mission of St. Luke
Evangelical Lutheran Church

We are to be “Christ Centered Servants”.

We are dedicated to glorifying our Lord through worship, learning and outreach ministry: serving and caring for the individual, the family, the community and the world. With the help of God, we will attempt to fulfill this mission through our work to serve Him in the following ministry areas: Witness, Support, Learning, Service and Worship.

Wishing Very Happy Birthdays To:

01/16 – David Berk
01/20 – Linda Serok
01/23 – Mary Fontenot
01/24 – Trish Gaibler
01/26 – Herb Melchor, Jr.



**Our congratulations and best wishes
to all those celebrating special days in January!**



First and foremost, I want to wish everyone a blessed and happy new year. I pray that we all had a joyous Christmas, never forgetting that Christmas is not just one day but a season, a season of peace and joy. January is often a time of reflection and I can't help but reflect on the great youth activity we have been engaged with this past year. We had an Easter Egg hunt, which was a great success and we will be repeating. We started a once a month Sunday school and a youth group that looks for ways to engage with the community. We had a Kids Christmas party where we had the blessed problem of having more kids than we expected show up. We had our Christmas Eve service with our wonderful youth musicians. Confirmation is going good and strong and this June we will be confirming one youth. We also have a first communion class scheduled for January 25th, with the other Palisades Area Lutheran Ministry (PALMS) Parishes. And even more events in the planning. Youth activities are really taking off and we are blessed to see these events. I have even added a youth sermon to the sermon and it is a blessing to be able to engage with our youth in a worship setting. You never know what they are going to say when prompted with a question, and that is one of my favorite parts of the youth sermon. So many times, when we reflect in January, we reflect on where we came up short in the prior 12 months. This January, let us reflect on the good that happened in 2024 and how we will continue, through God's grace, to see this good lead us into 2025. There is lot of good brewing, with our youth and within the whole congregation. I invite all of you to take part in the joy of our upcoming youth events, and if you have suggestions for other events, please let me know. St. John Henry Neumann tells us that "God has created me to do

Him some definite service; He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission.” Let us seek those missions and see them completed together. We all have a definite service to do and that is to live the life of faith that God’s loving grace frees us to live. Let us start 2025 together, working together towards for the greater glory of God. I pray when we reflect on 2025, that we look back at how great this year started together and how we prepared for the joyous year to come. We ask for this in the name of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. AMEN

Pastor Rich

Council President Report

No Council Meeting in December

January Meetings

Church Council Meeting- Sunday, January 12th

Immediately following worship – all are invited to attend



WELCA Meeting – Thursday, January 9th

Meetings are the second Thursday of each month at 1:30pm



Church News

Junior Choir – We are happy to announce that we once again have a junior choir here at St. Luke's. Rehearsals are on Sundays following worship. Please reach out to Darlene Durns at 215-353-6680 with any questions or for more information.

Soup Supper – Our next Soup Supper is scheduled for Tuesday, January 21st from 4:00pm – 7:00pm. A sign up sheet for donations of soup, desserts and paper products is in the Fellowship Hall.

Soles4Souls – St Luke's accepts gently used shoes to donate to "Soles4Souls". The labeled donation box is in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you for your support!

STRIVE FOR FIVE! – As we start fresh in the New Year, we tend to think of resolutions and changes in our lives. When thinking of finances, it is always good to have a fresh new start. Although the cost of everyday expenses is greatly rising, we can all try to find ways to cut costs. It may be a good time to rethink where we spend our weekly funds. Maybe one or two less Starbucks in a given week or maybe one less streaming service? If you think about prioritizing your income as to where your money is best spent, please consider "STRIVE FOR FIVE". This would simply be, if possible, expanding your weekly giving to St. Luke's Church by five dollars. If this is something you would consider, you would be helping St. Luke's continue to grow and be a light in the community.

Sunday School – Sunday School is held on the third Sunday of the month. Following our lesson everyone is invited to join Worship at 10:00am. Sunday School will be held again on Sunday, January 19th.

Youth Group – Our next meeting is Thursday, January 16th. Youth Group meets on the third Thursday of the month from 6:30pm to 8:00pm.

February Newsletter - The cutoff for submissions and updates for the February Newsletter is Wednesday, January 22nd. Thank you.

Palisades Area Lutheran Ministries (PALM) News

Messy Church – Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham will be holding a Messy Church on Martin Luther King Jr. Day/Monday, January 20th from 11:00 am – 1:00pm (flyer attached). This is a free event for all ages. Providing an enjoyable opportunity for families to experience Church and the love of God in a new way. Please contact Kat at Durham for information or to sign up to bring a dish evangel@durhamlutheran.org

The 2025 Newsletter Sponsorship sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Please consider helping out by sponsoring a month.



Healing of Members: Brunilda Contestabile, Carol Fluck, Darla Mills, Bonnie Weller, Sarah Chadwick, Tiffany Weddle, Pat Young, Jeff Boytim

For our homebound:

For friends and family: Chris Craggs, Jane Frey, Megan Ott, Christopher Leah, Jodie Miller, Robin Dillman, Alice Gaibler, Doug Chapman, Louis Cooper, Edna Roberts, Nancy Gaibler, Ellen Hardy, Cheryl Coulter, Jim Roney, Ava Brad, Holly

For those grieving:

For those in need: All those people impacted by natural disasters, First responders, U.S. Military personnel, Maramba Parish (Tanzania), the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania, SEKUCo (Tanzania), the people of Sri Lanka, Ukraine, Turkey and Syria, unemployed in our congregation.

For the ministries of area churches: Churches of the Palisades Cluster; Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding ELCA Bishop; Bryan Penman, Bishop SEPA Synod

Prayer List: If you have any corrections, additions, or deletions, please put a note in Pastor Rich's mailbox downstairs or leave a message on the church's answering machine. If you leave a message, please spell all names. Names for healing and grieving will be kept on the list for one month unless other instructions are given.

CONGREGATIONAL LEADERSHIP DIRECTORY

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South Eastern Pennsylvania Synod	www.ministrylink.org	267-323-3737	getinfo@sepa.org
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Mark Klingbeil	Council		
Patti Berk	Council	484-767-4886	angelworkscms@gmail.com
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Darlene Durns	Organist/Choir Director		dbdurns@aol.com
Jo Ann Emery	Church Treasurer		stluketreas@ptd.net

Visit the church's website at:
www.stlukeferndalepa.com

Follow us on Facebook at:
www.facebook.com/stlukeferndale

And, all of these other social media sites: Instagram, LinkedIn, X (formerly known as Twitter)