

# St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church

470 Church Hill Road, P.O. Box 67, Ferndale, PA 18921-0067

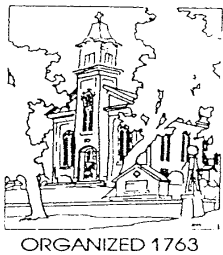
Church Office – (610)-847-5630

Church e-mail: - stlukeferndale@ptd.net

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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*

## March 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:*

03/04 – Barbara McLaughlin

03/19 – Donna Lehr

03/06 – Marie Wismer

03/20 – Ryan Serok

03/06 – Marlene Free

03/22 – Sadie Taber

03/12 – Robert Berk

03/23 – Aubrey Segreaves

03/13 – Carol Fluck

03/23 – Scott Segreaves, Jr.

03/18 – Janice Nast

03/25 – Barbara Karr



## Our congratulations and best wishes to all those celebrating special days in March!



Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ. Lent is one of my favorite times of the church year. Many are weary of Lent; however, I enjoy the meditative nature of the season. When I was in internship I wrote a Lenten devotional as part of my internship project. I would like to share the first 3 weeks of that devotional with all of you, in April I will share the final 2 weeks of the devotional. I am hoping this devotional will help you on your Lenten journey this year. In addition to this Lenten devotional, I would like to invite all of you to the PALMS soup supper and Lenten Mid-Week devotionals that will begin on Wednesday March 12<sup>th</sup> at Durham. These devotionals are great opportunity to reflect on our relationship with God and one another. They are more conversational and personal. I hope to see you all there. Lent is a time of deep reflection and even fasting. I am often asked “What are you giving up for Lent”. I always try to remind all that giving something up for Lent is a good practice. It helps remind us that God should be the focus in our lives. That the things that distract us and replace God are just empty idols. However, giving something up for 40 days and 40 nights just to go back to it is not the point. I remember one year I gave up candy. Do you know what I did once the Lenten fast was over on Holy Saturday? I ate a lot of candy. Instead of giving something up I would call on all of you to try and notice what it is about what you want to give up and meditate on it. Meditate on what it is you can do to overcome this idol. It’s not a fast to just pause doing what you know is harmful to you and your relationship with God just to resume it when the fast ends. Let your Lenten reflection and fasts bring you closer to God and closer to setting aside that which is harmful to you or at least put that which you are fasting from in its proper place in your life. May a meditative and reflective peace be with you all this Lent. May God’s grace and peace be with you all.

Ash Wednesday  
(Mt 6:1-6, 16-18)

I always had a quick chuckle that for Ash Wednesday our reading tells us not to “practice our piety before others” because we are walking around with a cross of ash on our foreheads. Then when you read further, we are told to pray in private and not act like the hypocrites and this begs the question “What are we doing, why are we walking around with this ash cross before others.” That is where we can introduce the 4 steps of Luther’s Four-stranded garland. (1) What is the text instructing us to do? If we read the very important charge in verse 1 it adds “in order to be seen by others” Jesus is not telling us that we are supposed to hide our faith, but that a living faith is more than just being seen living that faith. For Step (2) we examine the

thanksgiving, or how I am grateful this day through this text. For me, this text is redirecting my focus. The focus is not on the spiritual practice, or on me. The focus of the text is on the living faith for other that Jesus leads us in. Then in Step (3) we enter into a confession, a question on how I have not lived up to this focus and how must I, through the grace of Jesus Christ change my focus this Lenten season. Finally, with Step (4) we enter into a prayer. We end our exercise in a prayer of hope that we will see the promise that Jesus is leading us to in the text. These 4 steps can be adapted to any text. You can use in your daily readings, or with any text you sense the Holy Spirit leading you to engaging with.

### **First Wednesday of Lent**

(Jonah 3:1-10)

We all know the story of Jonah. Finally, out of the whale, he proceeds to Ninevah to deliver God's message. The people of Ninevah have forgotten the ways of the Lord, and as we have learned many of times in scripture, memory and especially remembering are key terms to tell us something is going on. Jonah gets to Ninevah and he sure starts a whirlwind with his proclamations, and that is where I call on us to start. This time through Ignatian Imaginative prayer. I'm sure there is a call in all of our lives on where we need to slow down and repent. With the first step, let us state out intention for this prayer before we enter the scene. Now let us enter the scene. Take a deep centering breath, read the text and imagine being in Ninevah, you hear this message that is in your heart and it is calling you and pulling you. Try to imagine as many details of the scenery as you can, use all your senses to truly enter in the text and be a part of the scene. Interact with other characters you may see, how are you experiencing what is happening. Let each one of your senses speak to you in the prayer and examine where they are leading you. The purpose of this exercise is to live inside the scene, to see where is that God is calling you to go. Do not let yourself get bogged down in the whirlwind, or in the penance. Remember that God's grace will carry you through and that God is with you on this journey. Any time you find yourself losing focus, you can always take a pause with a deep centering breath. When you are finished with your prayer you can conclude with the Lord's Prayer.

### **Second Wednesday of Lent**

(Mt 20:17-28)

As we continue this Lenten journey, a journey of refocus, we arrive at a familiar text that is asking us a familiar question from week one. Why does the mother of the sons of Zebedee want her sons to sit at the right and left hand of Jesus? For the sons of Zebedee, they still hold onto this notion of doing this and doing that to be seen. They want to be seen in the place of honor. Everyone wants recognition, but what they want is more than that.

As we continue with the text, let us focus on verse 25. Let us focus through a lectio divina, or a sacred reading on what in our lives are tyrants over us, and how to redirect our focus and see where God is leading us. We start in the scene that 17-22 created, but we focus on 23-28. Step (1) we read the text slowly, focus on a word that leaps out, an image. Where is the Holy Spirit waving at you, or inviting you in. Step (2) focus again on that image, or word. Read through again with the intent on seeing where God is leading you this day. Reflect on the why?. Step (3) you respond to the text. Remember, you respond with patience. The answers will not always leap at you. Listen with patience, remembering that this is a loving encounter with your creator. Step (4) a final reading, a reading in the sense of prayer. You conclude the conversation and let yourself leave in peace. The peace you leave is can propel you through the week, or help you get a new understanding of the text and what it is to serve. Remember the importance of taking deep centering breaths between the steps.

### **Third Wednesday of Lent**

#### **(Deuteronomy 4:1. 5-9)**

Moses spoke and the people listened, Moses implored the people to remember the words of the Lord and the people would often have a rocky road and forget. As we arrive at our midpoint of our Lenten journey, I want us to focus on memory, on where we have been forgetful and where the Holy Spirit is leading us back towards God's. For this we can pray through a Daily Examen, we can either pray through this examen every day until next Wednesday, or whatever days we feel the call to. Step (1) We become aware of God's presence, we recognize that we are a loved and cherished sinner in the presence of a God who loves us. Step (2) we review our day with gratitude. We look through that day and try to see were God as talking to us and leading us, where we felt grateful for that presence. Step (3) we review our whole day and we pay attention to how we responded to God's presence and were we felt God's presence. What was God' leading us to do, how did we respond, where we open to the growth the Spirit was leading us in, where were we most resistant. Step (4) we pick one moment that sticks out and we pray on that moment. Why does this moment stick out, where was God, where were we? We know what we have been taught, what we know of God's grace, did we live it, or did we ignore it. Step (5) we pray for the day that is to come and try and prepare through prayer for that day. Finally, we say the Lord's prayer and we go on with our night in the peace and comfort of God's grace.

Pastor Rich

# *Council President Report*

## **Church Council Highlights**

16 February 2025

The following items were discussed and/or voted on:

The meeting was called to Order.

The agenda was approved.

The minutes of the 12 January 2025 meeting were approved.

The treasurer's report was approved. All bills were paid.

Pastor's Report – please see his report in this newsletter.

Love Revolution Update – we missed the deadline for this past year, but we will be applying when the second round comes later this year.

Computer update – a discussion on whether we should look at replacing our old tower or replace with a laptop. At this point we will investigate both and have a recommendation for our March meeting.

The Council approved the Annual Congregational meeting for 6 April 2025 right after the service. Committee reports are due by 17 March 2025 to our secretary.

17 May 2025 at 9 am will be the annual spring clean-up. We can use many hands to get our church to look great. Please sign up in the fellowship hall.

The council discussed our Church Secretary attending the PALM group. More info is needed before we can make a decision.

The Council approve a request from WELCA for the spring rummage sale. The dates are May 2 and 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025.

On Sunday 9 March 2025 will be the Upper Bucks Conference at St. Peter's Hilltown. Two Lay members will attend.

The Annual SEPA meeting will be May 30 and 31. Pastor and Council members will attend.

Our Soup Suppers have been going very well. They are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. There will be suppers in March and April. Time 4 to 7 pm. Come and enjoy some awesome soups and fellowship with community members. Proceeds go to The Lord's Pantry and St. Luke's.

Sunday School is going well. We are seeing more kids involved.

Our Junior Choir is going well. Thanks to Darlene for getting this going.

There will be an Lutheran Day at the Iron Pigs Game on Sunday 20 April 2025 at 1:30 pm. Tickets are \$30 per person that includes admission, food and beverages. Please sign up in the fellowship hall. Make checks payable to St. Luke's.

Congratulations to our Youth Group on the efforts to help the homeless. They collected \$279.00 to be used to purchase 4 cots and other necessary items. WE are all proud of their efforts.

Tuesday March 4 - Mardi-Gras Potluck Dinner and Talent show from 5:30 pm. Come out and have some fun. Bring a covered dish.

Saturday April 19 will be our Easter Egg Hunt at 2 pm. This was well attended last year, and we look forward to having a bigger turnout this year. Any donations to help with this event are appreciated.

Ash Wednesday Service will be 5 March 2025 at 3 pm at St. Luke's.

St. Luke's will be hosting the Lenten Soup Service on 2 April 2025 at 6 pm.

There will be Stations of the Cross Service on 18 April 2025 service at 3 pm.

There were no committee reports.

Council Assignments were made.

The meeting was adjourned.

Lord's Prayer was said.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alan Klingbeil  
Church Council President.

## March Meetings



### **Church Council Meeting- Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**

Immediately following worship – all are invited to attend



### **WELCA Meeting – Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>**

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

## WELCA News

Our Spring Rummage Sale will be held on Friday May 2 and Saturday May 3. We will start setting up after church on Sunday April 27. Helpers are needed throughout the week. Please consider donating your time, baked goods and donations for the sale (no electronics, medical supplies or large furniture.) Thank you so much.

## Church News

**Bible Study** – Our Bible Study on the Book of Jonah continues on Mondays at 12:00pm. This is a 4-week study and will conclude on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Easter Flowers** – White lilies, tulips and daffodils will be available for purchase again this year. Please use the attached form to place your order as soon as possible. All orders must be in no later than Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. Flowers can be picked up after the Easter Sunday Service.

**Junior Choir** – Our Junior Choir will be singing during Sunday Worship on March 30<sup>th</sup>, April 20<sup>th</sup> and May 18<sup>th</sup>. Please reach out to Darlene Durns at 215-353-6680 with any questions or for more information about our Junior Choir. Rehearsals are on Sundays following worship.

**IronPigs** – Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> is Lutheran Day with The IronPigs at Coca-Cola Park in Allentown. There is a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for anyone interested in attending. The cost is \$30 per ticket and only 20 tickets are allotted per church. Please see attachment for more information.

**Lenten Soup Suppers** – Wednesdays during Lent the PALM Churches will be hosting soup suppers/devotions at a different location each week from 6:00pm – 7:30pm. The full schedule with dates and locations is attached and posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

St. Luke's will be hosting on Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Mardi Gras** – Our Potluck Dinner and Talent Show on March 4<sup>th</sup> was a success! Thank you to everyone who joined us for the return of this fun filled tradition.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** – St Lukes would like to thank Sarah Chadwick for her devoted service to the Prayer Shawl Ministry. For years she has been making thousands of these shawls for our sick and shut-ins. It truly is a Christian endeavor and has kept many people covered in warmth and prayers.

**Spring Rummage Sale** – WELCA will be hosting the Spring Rummage Sale on Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Setup will begin after church on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. Helpers are needed throughout the week. Please consider donating your time, baked goods and donations for the sale (no electronics, medical supplies or large furniture). Thank you.

**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!

**Soup Supper** – Our next Soup Supper is Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> from 4:00pm – 7:00pm. A sign up sheet for donations of soup, desserts and paper products is in the Fellowship Hall.

**Stations of the Cross** – Please join us on Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm for Stations of the Cross.

**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, March 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Youth Group** – Our next meeting is Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. Youth Group meets on the third Thursday of the month from 6:30pm to 8:00pm.

### **Save the Dates**

**Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>** – Annual Congregation Meeting – following service

**Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>** – Easter Egg Hunt – 2:00pm

**Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>** – WELCA Spring Rummage Sale

**Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>** – Annual Spring Clean Up – 9:00am

**April Newsletter** - The cutoff for submissions and updates for the April Newsletter is Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

## **Palisades Area Lutheran Ministries (PALM) News**

**Easter Pie Sale** – St Peter's in Riegelsville is having an Easter Pie Sale. \$15 each 9-inch pie – you choose the type (sorry no lemon meringue). Orders will be taken until April 11<sup>th</sup> and pickup is Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at St. Peter's Church from 1:00pm – 3:00pm. Please see attached flyer for details.



# thank you

**Thank you to Marie Wismer for sponsoring our March Newsletter.**

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, Elizabeth Herring

***For our homebound:***

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

***For those grieving:*** The Family of Walter H. Gaibler, Jr., The Family of Nadine L. Pursell

***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**

Church Office: 610-847-5630

e-mail: [stlukeferndale@ptd.net](mailto:stlukeferndale@ptd.net) website: [www.stlukeferndalepa.com](http://www.stlukeferndalepa.com)

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South Eastern Pennsylvania Synod	<a href="http://www.ministrylink.org">www.ministrylink.org</a>	267-323-3737	<a href="mailto:getinfo@sepa.org">getinfo@sepa.org</a>
The Rev. Bryan J. Penman	Bishop SEPA Synod		
The Rev. Richard Bergen	Pastor	646-717-2407	<a href="mailto:iggyluthrich@gmail.com">iggyluthrich@gmail.com</a>
Alan Klingbeil	Council President	215-262-4974	<a href="mailto:fvflbak@gmail.com">fvflbak@gmail.com</a>
Sue Taber	Council Vice President		
Bill Schnabel	Council		
Mark Klingbeil	Council		
Patti Berk	Council	484-767-4886	<a href="mailto:angelworkscms@gmail.com">angelworkscms@gmail.com</a>
Rodney Pursell	Council		<a href="mailto:rjp81953@yahoo.com">rjp81953@yahoo.com</a>
Darla Mills	Financial Secretary		<a href="mailto:darlamills@frontier.com">darlamills@frontier.com</a>
Darlene Durns	Organist/Choir Director		<a href="mailto:dbdurns@aol.com">dbdurns@aol.com</a>
Jo Ann Emery	Church Treasurer		<a href="mailto:stluketreas@ptd.net">stluketreas@ptd.net</a>

Visit the church's website at:  
[www.stlukeferndalepa.com](http://www.stlukeferndalepa.com)

Follow us on Facebook at:  
[www.facebook.com/stlukeferndale](http://www.facebook.com/stlukeferndale)

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

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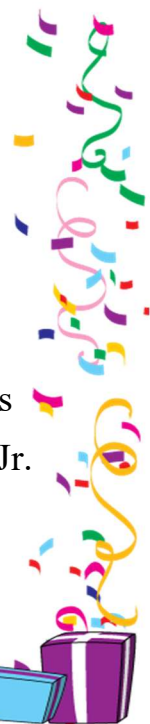
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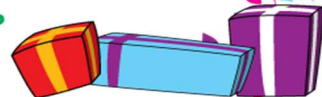
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*Happy Birthday!*



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Pastor Rich

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South Eastern Pennsylvania Synod	<a href="http://www.ministrylink.org">www.ministrylink.org</a>	267-323-3737	<a href="mailto:getinfo@sepa.org">getinfo@sepa.org</a>
The Rev. Bryan J. Penman	Bishop SEPA Synod		
The Rev. Richard Bergen	Pastor	646-717-2407	<a href="mailto:iggyluthrich@gmail.com">iggyluthrich@gmail.com</a>
Alan Klingbeil	Council President	215-262-4974	<a href="mailto:fvflbak@gmail.com">fvflbak@gmail.com</a>
Sue Taber	Council Vice President		
Bill Schnabel	Council		
Mark Klingbeil	Council		
Patti Berk	Council	484-767-4886	<a href="mailto:angelworkscms@gmail.com">angelworkscms@gmail.com</a>
Rodney Pursell	Council		<a href="mailto:rjp81953@yahoo.com">rjp81953@yahoo.com</a>
Darla Mills	Financial Secretary		<a href="mailto:darlamills@frontier.com">darlamills@frontier.com</a>
Darlene Durns	Organist/Choir Director		<a href="mailto:dbdurns@aol.com">dbdurns@aol.com</a>
Jo Ann Emery	Church Treasurer		<a href="mailto:stluketreas@ptd.net">stluketreas@ptd.net</a>

Visit the church's website at:  
[www.stlukeferndalepa.com](http://www.stlukeferndalepa.com)

Follow us on Facebook at:  
[www.facebook.com/stlukeferndale](http://www.facebook.com/stlukeferndale)

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

# St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church

470 Church Hill Road, P.O. Box 67, Ferndale, PA 18921-0067

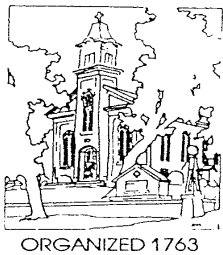
Church Office – (610)-847-5630

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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*

## March 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:*

03/04 – Barbara McLaughlin

03/19 – Donna Lehr

03/06 – Marie Wismer

03/20 – Ryan Serok

03/06 – Marlene Free

03/22 – Sadie Taber

03/12 – Robert Berk

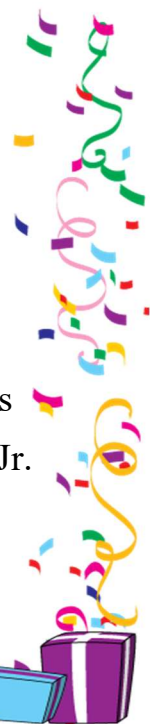
03/23 – Aubrey Segreaves

03/13 – Carol Fluck

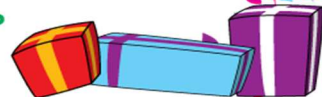
03/23 – Scott Segreaves, Jr.

03/18 – Janice Nast

03/25 – Barbara Karr



*Happy Birthday!*



## Our congratulations and best wishes to all those celebrating special days in March!



Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ. Lent is one of my favorite times of the church year. Many are weary of Lent; however, I enjoy the meditative nature of the season. When I was in internship I wrote a Lenten devotional as part of my internship project. I would like to share the first 3 weeks of that devotional with all of you, in April I will share the final 2 weeks of the devotional. I am hoping this devotional will help you on your Lenten journey this year. In addition to this Lenten devotional, I would like to invite all of you to the PALMS soup supper and Lenten Mid-Week devotionals that will begin on Wednesday March 12<sup>th</sup> at Durham. These devotionals are great opportunity to reflect on our relationship with God and one another. They are more conversational and personal. I hope to see you all there. Lent is a time of deep reflection and even fasting. I am often asked “What are you giving up for Lent”. I always try to remind all that giving something up for Lent is a good practice. It helps remind us that God should be the focus in our lives. That the things that distract us and replace God are just empty idols. However, giving something up for 40 days and 40 nights just to go back to it is not the point. I remember one year I gave up candy. Do you know what I did once the Lenten fast was over on Holy Saturday? I ate a lot of candy. Instead of giving something up I would call on all of you to try and notice what it is about what you want to give up and meditate on it. Meditate on what it is you can do to overcome this idol. It’s not a fast to just pause doing what you know is harmful to you and your relationship with God just to resume it when the fast ends. Let your Lenten reflection and fasts bring you closer to God and closer to setting aside that which is harmful to you or at least put that which you are fasting from in its proper place in your life. May a meditative and reflective peace be with you all this Lent. May God’s grace and peace be with you all.

Ash Wednesday  
(Mt 6:1-6, 16-18)

I always had a quick chuckle that for Ash Wednesday our reading tells us not to “practice our piety before others” because we are walking around with a cross of ash on our foreheads. Then when you read further, we are told to pray in private and not act like the hypocrites and this begs the question “What are we doing, why are we walking around with this ash cross before others.” That is where we can introduce the 4 steps of Luther’s Four-stranded garland. (1) What is the text instructing us to do? If we read the very important charge in verse 1 it adds “in order to be seen by others” Jesus is not telling us that we are supposed to hide our faith, but that a living faith is more than just being seen living that faith. For Step (2) we examine the

thanksgiving, or how I am grateful this day through this text. For me, this text is redirecting my focus. The focus is not on the spiritual practice, or on me. The focus of the text is on the living faith for other that Jesus leads us in. Then in Step (3) we enter into a confession, a question on how I have not lived up to this focus and how must I, through the grace of Jesus Christ change my focus this Lenten season. Finally, with Step (4) we enter into a prayer. We end our exercise in a prayer of hope that we will see the promise that Jesus is leading us to in the text. These 4 steps can be adapted to any text. You can use in your daily readings, or with any text you sense the Holy Spirit leading you to engaging with.

### **First Wednesday of Lent**

(Jonah 3:1-10)

We all know the story of Jonah. Finally, out of the whale, he proceeds to Ninevah to deliver God's message. The people of Ninevah have forgotten the ways of the Lord, and as we have learned many of times in scripture, memory and especially remembering are key terms to tell us something is going on. Jonah gets to Ninevah and he sure starts a whirlwind with his proclamations, and that is where I call on us to start. This time through Ignatian Imaginative prayer. I'm sure there is a call in all of our lives on where we need to slow down and repent. With the first step, let us state out intention for this prayer before we enter the scene. Now let us enter the scene. Take a deep centering breath, read the text and imagine being in Ninevah, you hear this message that is in your heart and it is calling you and pulling you. Try to imagine as many details of the scenery as you can, use all your senses to truly enter in the text and be a part of the scene. Interact with other characters you may see, how are you experiencing what is happening. Let each one of your senses speak to you in the prayer and examine where they are leading you. The purpose of this exercise is to live inside the scene, to see where is that God is calling you to go. Do not let yourself get bogged down in the whirlwind, or in the penance. Remember that God's grace will carry you through and that God is with you on this journey. Any time you find yourself losing focus, you can always take a pause with a deep centering breath. When you are finished with your prayer you can conclude with the Lord's Prayer.

### **Second Wednesday of Lent**

(Mt 20:17-28)

As we continue this Lenten journey, a journey of refocus, we arrive at a familiar text that is asking us a familiar question from week one. Why does the mother of the sons of Zebedee want her sons to sit at the right and left hand of Jesus? For the sons of Zebedee, they still hold onto this notion of doing this and doing that to be seen. They want to be seen in the place of honor. Everyone wants recognition, but what they want is more than that.

As we continue with the text, let us focus on verse 25. Let us focus through a lectio divina, or a sacred reading on what in our lives are tyrants over us, and how to redirect our focus and see where God is leading us. We start in the scene that 17-22 created, but we focus on 23-28. Step (1) we read the text slowly, focus on a word that leaps out, an image. Where is the Holy Spirit waving at you, or inviting you in. Step (2) focus again on that image, or word. Read through again with the intent on seeing where God is leading you this day. Reflect on the why?. Step (3) you respond to the text. Remember, you respond with patience. The answers will not always leap at you. Listen with patience, remembering that this is a loving encounter with your creator. Step (4) a final reading, a reading in the sense of prayer. You conclude the conversation and let yourself leave in peace. The peace you leave is can propel you through the week, or help you get a new understanding of the text and what it is to serve. Remember the importance of taking deep centering breaths between the steps.

### **Third Wednesday of Lent**

#### **(Deuteronomy 4:1. 5-9)**

Moses spoke and the people listened, Moses implored the people to remember the words of the Lord and the people would often have a rocky road and forget. As we arrive at our midpoint of our Lenten journey, I want us to focus on memory, on where we have been forgetful and where the Holy Spirit is leading us back towards God's. For this we can pray through a Daily Examen, we can either pray through this examen every day until next Wednesday, or whatever days we feel the call to. Step (1) We become aware of God's presence, we recognize that we are a loved and cherished sinner in the presence of a God who loves us. Step (2) we review our day with gratitude. We look through that day and try to see were God as talking to us and leading us, where we felt grateful for that presence. Step (3) we review our whole day and we pay attention to how we responded to God's presence and were we felt God's presence. What was God' leading us to do, how did we respond, where we open to the growth the Spirit was leading us in, where were we most resistant. Step (4) we pick one moment that sticks out and we pray on that moment. Why does this moment stick out, where was God, where were we? We know what we have been taught, what we know of God's grace, did we live it, or did we ignore it. Step (5) we pray for the day that is to come and try and prepare through prayer for that day. Finally, we say the Lord's prayer and we go on with our night in the peace and comfort of God's grace.

Pastor Rich



# *Council President Report*

## **Church Council Highlights**

16 February 2025

The following items were discussed and/or voted on:

The meeting was called to Order.

The agenda was approved.

The minutes of the 12 January 2025 meeting were approved.

The treasurer's report was approved. All bills were paid.

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South Eastern Pennsylvania Synod	<a href="http://www.ministrylink.org">www.ministrylink.org</a>	267-323-3737	<a href="mailto:getinfo@sepa.org">getinfo@sepa.org</a>
The Rev. Bryan J. Penman	Bishop SEPA Synod		
The Rev. Richard Bergen	Pastor	646-717-2407	<a href="mailto:iggyluthrich@gmail.com">iggyluthrich@gmail.com</a>
Alan Klingbeil	Council President	215-262-4974	<a href="mailto:fvflbak@gmail.com">fvflbak@gmail.com</a>
Sue Taber	Council Vice President		
Bill Schnabel	Council		
Mark Klingbeil	Council		
Patti Berk	Council	484-767-4886	<a href="mailto:angelworkscms@gmail.com">angelworkscms@gmail.com</a>
Rodney Pursell	Council		<a href="mailto:rjp81953@yahoo.com">rjp81953@yahoo.com</a>
Darla Mills	Financial Secretary		<a href="mailto:darlamills@frontier.com">darlamills@frontier.com</a>
Darlene Durns	Organist/Choir Director		<a href="mailto:dbdurns@aol.com">dbdurns@aol.com</a>
Jo Ann Emery	Church Treasurer		<a href="mailto:stluketreas@ptd.net">stluketreas@ptd.net</a>

Visit the church's website at:  
[www.stlukeferndalepa.com](http://www.stlukeferndalepa.com)

Follow us on Facebook at:  
[www.facebook.com/stlukeferndale](http://www.facebook.com/stlukeferndale)

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

# St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church

470 Church Hill Road, P.O. Box 67, Ferndale, PA 18921-0067

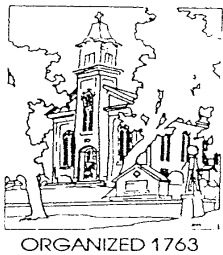
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A Newsletter for Members and Friends of St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church  
*To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. Timothy*

## March 2025



### Mission & Vision Statement

The Purpose and Mission of St. Luke  
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*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.

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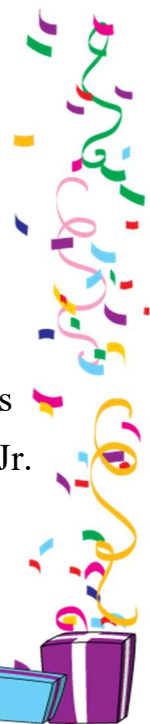
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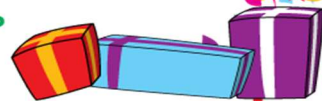
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*Happy Birthday!*



## Our congratulations and best wishes to all those celebrating special days in March!



Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ. Lent is one of my favorite times of the church year. Many are weary of Lent; however, I enjoy the meditative nature of the season. When I was in internship I wrote a Lenten devotional as part of my internship project. I would like to share the first 3 weeks of that devotional with all of you, in April I will share the final 2 weeks of the devotional. I am hoping this devotional will help you on your Lenten journey this year. In addition to this Lenten devotional, I would like to invite all of you to the PALMS soup supper and Lenten Mid-Week devotionals that will begin on Wednesday March 12<sup>th</sup> at Durham. These devotionals are great opportunity to reflect on our relationship with God and one another. They are more conversational and personal. I hope to see you all there. Lent is a time of deep reflection and even fasting. I am often asked “What are you giving up for Lent”. I always try to remind all that giving something up for Lent is a good practice. It helps remind us that God should be the focus in our lives. That the things that distract us and replace God are just empty idols. However, giving something up for 40 days and 40 nights just to go back to it is not the point. I remember one year I gave up candy. Do you know what I did once the Lenten fast was over on Holy Saturday? I ate a lot of candy. Instead of giving something up I would call on all of you to try and notice what it is about what you want to give up and meditate on it. Meditate on what it is you can do to overcome this idol. It’s not a fast to just pause doing what you know is harmful to you and your relationship with God just to resume it when the fast ends. Let your Lenten reflection and fasts bring you closer to God and closer to setting aside that which is harmful to you or at least put that which you are fasting from in its proper place in your life. May a meditative and reflective peace be with you all this Lent. May God’s grace and peace be with you all.

Ash Wednesday  
(Mt 6:1-6, 16-18)

I always had a quick chuckle that for Ash Wednesday our reading tells us not to “practice our piety before others” because we are walking around with a cross of ash on our foreheads. Then when you read further, we are told to pray in private and not act like the hypocrites and this begs the question “What are we doing, why are we walking around with this ash cross before others.” That is where we can introduce the 4 steps of Luther’s Four-stranded garland. (1) What is the text instructing us to do? If we read the very important charge in verse 1 it adds “in order to be seen by others” Jesus is not telling us that we are supposed to hide our faith, but that a living faith is more than just being seen living that faith. For Step (2) we examine the



thanksgiving, or how I am grateful this day through this text. For me, this text is redirecting my focus. The focus is not on the spiritual practice, or on me. The focus of the text is on the living faith for other that Jesus leads us in. Then in Step (3) we enter into a confession, a question on how I have not lived up to this focus and how must I, through the grace of Jesus Christ change my focus this Lenten season. Finally, with Step (4) we enter into a prayer. We end our exercise in a prayer of hope that we will see the promise that Jesus is leading us to in the text. These 4 steps can be adapted to any text. You can use in your daily readings, or with any text you sense the Holy Spirit leading you to engaging with.

### **First Wednesday of Lent**

(Jonah 3:1-10)

We all know the story of Jonah. Finally, out of the whale, he proceeds to Ninevah to deliver God's message. The people of Ninevah have forgotten the ways of the Lord, and as we have learned many of times in scripture, memory and especially remembering are key terms to tell us something is going on. Jonah gets to Ninevah and he sure starts a whirlwind with his proclamations, and that is where I call on us to start. This time through Ignatian Imaginative prayer. I'm sure there is a call in all of our lives on where we need to slow down and repent. With the first step, let us state out intention for this prayer before we enter the scene. Now let us enter the scene. Take a deep centering breath, read the text and imagine being in Ninevah, you hear this message that is in your heart and it is calling you and pulling you. Try to imagine as many details of the scenery as you can, use all your senses to truly enter in the text and be a part of the scene. Interact with other characters you may see, how are you experiencing what is happening. Let each one of your senses speak to you in the prayer and examine where they are leading you. The purpose of this exercise is to live inside the scene, to see where is that God is calling you to go. Do not let yourself get bogged down in the whirlwind, or in the penance. Remember that God's grace will carry you through and that God is with you on this journey. Any time you find yourself losing focus, you can always take a pause with a deep centering breath. When you are finished with your prayer you can conclude with the Lord's Prayer.

### **Second Wednesday of Lent**

(Mt 20:17-28)

As we continue this Lenten journey, a journey of refocus, we arrive at a familiar text that is asking us a familiar question from week one. Why does the mother of the sons of Zebedee want her sons to sit at the right and left hand of Jesus? For the sons of Zebedee, they still hold onto this notion of doing this and doing that to be seen. They want to be seen in the place of honor. Everyone wants recognition, but what they want is more than that.

As we continue with the text, let us focus on verse 25. Let us focus through a lectio divina, or a sacred reading on what in our lives are tyrants over us, and how to redirect our focus and see where God is leading us. We start in the scene that 17-22 created, but we focus on 23-28. Step (1) we read the text slowly, focus on a word that leaps out, an image. Where is the Holy Spirit waving at you, or inviting you in. Step (2) focus again on that image, or word. Read through again with the intent on seeing where God is leading you this day. Reflect on the why?. Step (3) you respond to the text. Remember, you respond with patience. The answers will not always leap at you. Listen with patience, remembering that this is a loving encounter with your creator. Step (4) a final reading, a reading in the sense of prayer. You conclude the conversation and let yourself leave in peace. The peace you leave is can propel you through the week, or help you get a new understanding of the text and what it is to serve. Remember the importance of taking deep centering breaths between the steps.

### **Third Wednesday of Lent**

#### **(Deuteronomy 4:1. 5-9)**

Moses spoke and the people listened, Moses implored the people to remember the words of the Lord and the people would often have a rocky road and forget. As we arrive at our midpoint of our Lenten journey, I want us to focus on memory, on where we have been forgetful and where the Holy Spirit is leading us back towards God's. For this we can pray through a Daily Examen, we can either pray through this examen every day until next Wednesday, or whatever days we feel the call to. Step (1) We become aware of God's presence, we recognize that we are a loved and cherished sinner in the presence of a God who loves us. Step (2) we review our day with gratitude. We look through that day and try to see were God as talking to us and leading us, where we felt grateful for that presence. Step (3) we review our whole day and we pay attention to how we responded to God's presence and were we felt God's presence. What was God' leading us to do, how did we respond, where we open to the growth the Spirit was leading us in, where were we most resistant. Step (4) we pick one moment that sticks out and we pray on that moment. Why does this moment stick out, where was God, where were we? We know what we have been taught, what we know of God's grace, did we live it, or did we ignore it. Step (5) we pray for the day that is to come and try and prepare through prayer for that day. Finally, we say the Lord's prayer and we go on with our night in the peace and comfort of God's grace.

Pastor Rich

# *Council President Report*

## **Church Council Highlights**

16 February 2025

The following items were discussed and/or voted on:

The meeting was called to Order.

The agenda was approved.

The minutes of the 12 January 2025 meeting were approved.

The treasurer's report was approved. All bills were paid.

Pastor's Report – please see his report in this newsletter.

Love Revolution Update – we missed the deadline for this past year, but we will be applying when the second round comes later this year.

Computer update – a discussion on whether we should look at replacing our old tower or replace with a laptop. At this point we will investigate both and have a recommendation for our March meeting.

The Council approved the Annual Congregational meeting for 6 April 2025 right after the service. Committee reports are due by 17 March 2025 to our secretary.

17 May 2025 at 9 am will be the annual spring clean-up. We can use many hands to get our church to look great. Please sign up in the fellowship hall.

The council discussed our Church Secretary attending the PALM group. More info is needed before we can make a decision.

The Council approve a request from WELCA for the spring rummage sale. The dates are May 2 and 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025.

On Sunday 9 March 2025 will be the Upper Bucks Conference at St. Peter's Hilltown. Two Lay members will attend.

The Annual SEPA meeting will be May 30 and 31. Pastor and Council members will attend.

Our Soup Suppers have been going very well. They are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. There will be suppers in March and April. Time 4 to 7 pm. Come and enjoy some awesome soups and fellowship with community members. Proceeds go to The Lord's Pantry and St. Luke's.

Sunday School is going well. We are seeing more kids involved.

Our Junior Choir is going well. Thanks to Darlene for getting this going.

There will be an Lutheran Day at the Iron Pigs Game on Sunday 20 April 2025 at 1:30 pm. Tickets are \$30 per person that includes admission, food and beverages. Please sign up in the fellowship hall. Make checks payable to St. Luke's.

Congratulations to our Youth Group on the efforts to help the homeless. They collected \$279.00 to be used to purchase 4 cots and other necessary items. WE are all proud of their efforts.

Tuesday March 4 - Mardi-Gras Potluck Dinner and Talent show from 5:30 pm. Come out and have some fun. Bring a covered dish.

Saturday April 19 will be our Easter Egg Hunt at 2 pm. This was well attended last year, and we look forward to having a bigger turnout this year. Any donations to help with this event are appreciated.

Ash Wednesday Service will be 5 March 2025 at 3 pm at St. Luke's.

St. Luke's will be hosting the Lenten Soup Service on 2 April 2025 at 6 pm.

There will be Stations of the Cross Service on 18 April 2025 service at 3 pm.

There were no committee reports.

Council Assignments were made.

The meeting was adjourned.

Lord's Prayer was said.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alan Klingbeil  
Church Council President.

## March Meetings



### **Church Council Meeting- Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**

Immediately following worship – all are invited to attend



### **WELCA Meeting – Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>**

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

## WELCA News

Our Spring Rummage Sale will be held on Friday May 2 and Saturday May 3. We will start setting up after church on Sunday April 27. Helpers are needed throughout the week. Please consider donating your time, baked goods and donations for the sale (no electronics, medical supplies or large furniture.) Thank you so much.

## Church News

**Bible Study** – Our Bible Study on the Book of Jonah continues on Mondays at 12:00pm. This is a 4-week study and will conclude on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Easter Flowers** – White lilies, tulips and daffodils will be available for purchase again this year. Please use the attached form to place your order as soon as possible. All orders must be in no later than Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. Flowers can be picked up after the Easter Sunday Service.

**Junior Choir** – Our Junior Choir will be singing during Sunday Worship on March 30<sup>th</sup>, April 20<sup>th</sup> and May 18<sup>th</sup>. Please reach out to Darlene Durns at 215-353-6680 with any questions or for more information about our Junior Choir. Rehearsals are on Sundays following worship.

**IronPigs** – Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> is Lutheran Day with The IronPigs at Coca-Cola Park in Allentown. There is a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for anyone interested in attending. The cost is \$30 per ticket and only 20 tickets are allotted per church. Please see attachment for more information.

**Lenten Soup Suppers** – Wednesdays during Lent the PALM Churches will be hosting soup suppers/devotions at a different location each week from 6:00pm – 7:30pm. The full schedule with dates and locations is attached and posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

St. Luke's will be hosting on Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Mardi Gras** – Our Potluck Dinner and Talent Show on March 4<sup>th</sup> was a success! Thank you to everyone who joined us for the return of this fun filled tradition.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** – St Lukes would like to thank Sarah Chadwick for her devoted service to the Prayer Shawl Ministry. For years she has been making thousands of these shawls for our sick and shut-ins. It truly is a Christian endeavor and has kept many people covered in warmth and prayers.

**Spring Rummage Sale** – WELCA will be hosting the Spring Rummage Sale on Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Setup will begin after church on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. Helpers are needed throughout the week. Please consider donating your time, baked goods and donations for the sale (no electronics, medical supplies or large furniture). Thank you.

**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!

**Soup Supper** – Our next Soup Supper is Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> from 4:00pm – 7:00pm. A sign up sheet for donations of soup, desserts and paper products is in the Fellowship Hall.

**Stations of the Cross** – Please join us on Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm for Stations of the Cross.

**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, March 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Youth Group** – Our next meeting is Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. Youth Group meets on the third Thursday of the month from 6:30pm to 8:00pm.

### **Save the Dates**

**Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>** – Annual Congregation Meeting – following service

**Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>** – Easter Egg Hunt – 2:00pm

**Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>** – WELCA Spring Rummage Sale

**Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>** – Annual Spring Clean Up – 9:00am

**April Newsletter** - The cutoff for submissions and updates for the April Newsletter is Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

## **Palisades Area Lutheran Ministries (PALM) News**

**Easter Pie Sale** – St Peter's in Riegelsville is having an Easter Pie Sale. \$15 each 9-inch pie – you choose the type (sorry no lemon meringue). Orders will be taken until April 11<sup>th</sup> and pickup is Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at St. Peter's Church from 1:00pm – 3:00pm. Please see attached flyer for details.

# thank you

**Thank you to Marie Wismer for sponsoring our March Newsletter.**

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, Elizabeth Herring

***For our homebound:***

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

***For those grieving:*** The Family of Walter H. Gaibler, Jr., The Family of Nadine L. Pursell

***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**

Church Office: 610-847-5630

e-mail: [stlukeferndale@ptd.net](mailto:stlukeferndale@ptd.net) website: [www.stlukeferndalepa.com](http://www.stlukeferndalepa.com)

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Rodney Pursell	Council		<a href="mailto:rjp81953@yahoo.com">rjp81953@yahoo.com</a>
Darla Mills	Financial Secretary		<a href="mailto:darlamills@frontier.com">darlamills@frontier.com</a>
Darlene Durns	Organist/Choir Director		<a href="mailto:dbdurns@aol.com">dbdurns@aol.com</a>
Jo Ann Emery	Church Treasurer		<a href="mailto:stluketreas@ptd.net">stluketreas@ptd.net</a>

Visit the church's website at:  
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Follow us on Facebook at:  
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And, all of these other social media sites: Instagram, LinkedIn, X (formerly known as Twitter)



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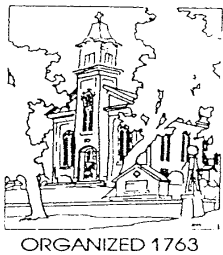
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#### **(Deuteronomy 4:1. 5-9)**

Moses spoke and the people listened, Moses implored the people to remember the words of the Lord and the people would often have a rocky road and forget. As we arrive at our midpoint of our Lenten journey, I want us to focus on memory, on where we have been forgetful and where the Holy Spirit is leading us back towards God's. For this we can pray through a Daily Examen, we can either pray through this examen every day until next Wednesday, or whatever days we feel the call to. Step (1) We become aware of God's presence, we recognize that we are a loved and cherished sinner in the presence of a God who loves us. Step (2) we review our day with gratitude. We look through that day and try to see were God as talking to us and leading us, where we felt grateful for that presence. Step (3) we review our whole day and we pay attention to how we responded to God's presence and were we felt God's presence. What was God' leading us to do, how did we respond, where we open to the growth the Spirit was leading us in, where were we most resistant. Step (4) we pick one moment that sticks out and we pray on that moment. Why does this moment stick out, where was God, where were we? We know what we have been taught, what we know of God's grace, did we live it, or did we ignore it. Step (5) we pray for the day that is to come and try and prepare through prayer for that day. Finally, we say the Lord's prayer and we go on with our night in the peace and comfort of God's grace.

Pastor Rich

# *Council President Report*

## **Church Council Highlights**

16 February 2025

The following items were discussed and/or voted on:

The meeting was called to Order.

The agenda was approved.

The minutes of the 12 January 2025 meeting were approved.

The treasurer's report was approved. All bills were paid.

Pastor's Report – please see his report in this newsletter.

Love Revolution Update – we missed the deadline for this past year, but we will be applying when the second round comes later this year.

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Respectfully Submitted,

Alan Klingbeil  
Church Council President.

## March Meetings



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Immediately following worship – all are invited to attend



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**April Newsletter** - The cutoff for submissions and updates for the April Newsletter is Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

## **Palisades Area Lutheran Ministries (PALM) News**

**Easter Pie Sale** – St Peter's in Riegelsville is having an Easter Pie Sale. \$15 each 9-inch pie – you choose the type (sorry no lemon meringue). Orders will be taken until April 11<sup>th</sup> and pickup is Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at St. Peter's Church from 1:00pm – 3:00pm. Please see attached flyer for details.



# thank you

**Thank you to Marie Wismer for sponsoring our March Newsletter.**

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, Elizabeth Herring

***For our homebound:***

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

***For those grieving:*** The Family of Walter H. Gaibler, Jr., The Family of Nadine L. Pursell

***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**

Church Office: 610-847-5630

e-mail: [stlukeferndale@ptd.net](mailto:stlukeferndale@ptd.net) website: [www.stlukeferndalepa.com](http://www.stlukeferndalepa.com)

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South Eastern Pennsylvania Synod	<a href="http://www.ministrylink.org">www.ministrylink.org</a>	267-323-3737	<a href="mailto:getinfo@sepa.org">getinfo@sepa.org</a>
The Rev. Bryan J. Penman	Bishop SEPA Synod		
The Rev. Richard Bergen	Pastor	646-717-2407	<a href="mailto:iggyluthrich@gmail.com">iggyluthrich@gmail.com</a>
Alan Klingbeil	Council President	215-262-4974	<a href="mailto:fvflbak@gmail.com">fvflbak@gmail.com</a>
Sue Taber	Council Vice President		
Bill Schnabel	Council		
Mark Klingbeil	Council		
Patti Berk	Council	484-767-4886	<a href="mailto:angelworkscms@gmail.com">angelworkscms@gmail.com</a>
Rodney Pursell	Council		<a href="mailto:rjp81953@yahoo.com">rjp81953@yahoo.com</a>
Darla Mills	Financial Secretary		<a href="mailto:darlamills@frontier.com">darlamills@frontier.com</a>
Darlene Durns	Organist/Choir Director		<a href="mailto:dbdurns@aol.com">dbdurns@aol.com</a>
Jo Ann Emery	Church Treasurer		<a href="mailto:stluketreas@ptd.net">stluketreas@ptd.net</a>

Visit the church's website at:  
[www.stlukeferndalepa.com](http://www.stlukeferndalepa.com)

Follow us on Facebook at:  
[www.facebook.com/stlukeferndale](http://www.facebook.com/stlukeferndale)

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

# St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church

470 Church Hill Road, P.O. Box 67, Ferndale, PA 18921-0067

Church Office – (610)-847-5630

Church e-mail: - stlukeferndale@ptd.net

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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*

## March 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:*

03/04 – Barbara McLaughlin

03/19 – Donna Lehr

03/06 – Marie Wismer

03/20 – Ryan Serok

03/06 – Marlene Free

03/22 – Sadie Taber

03/12 – Robert Berk

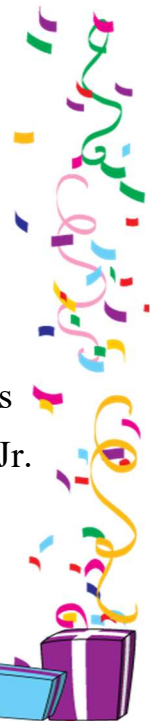
03/23 – Aubrey Segreaves

03/13 – Carol Fluck

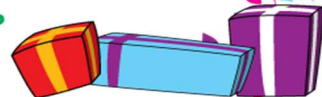
03/23 – Scott Segreaves, Jr.

03/18 – Janice Nast

03/25 – Barbara Karr



*Happy Birthday!*



## Our congratulations and best wishes to all those celebrating special days in March!



Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ. Lent is one of my favorite times of the church year. Many are weary of Lent; however, I enjoy the meditative nature of the season. When I was in internship I wrote a Lenten devotional as part of my internship project. I would like to share the first 3 weeks of that devotional with all of you, in April I will share the final 2 weeks of the devotional. I am hoping this devotional will help you on your Lenten journey this year. In addition to this Lenten devotional, I would like to invite all of you to the PALMS soup supper and Lenten Mid-Week devotionals that will begin on Wednesday March 12<sup>th</sup> at Durham. These devotionals are great opportunity to reflect on our relationship with God and one another. They are more conversational and personal. I hope to see you all there. Lent is a time of deep reflection and even fasting. I am often asked “What are you giving up for Lent”. I always try to remind all that giving something up for Lent is a good practice. It helps remind us that God should be the focus in our lives. That the things that distract us and replace God are just empty idols. However, giving something up for 40 days and 40 nights just to go back to it is not the point. I remember one year I gave up candy. Do you know what I did once the Lenten fast was over on Holy Saturday? I ate a lot of candy. Instead of giving something up I would call on all of you to try and notice what it is about what you want to give up and meditate on it. Meditate on what it is you can do to overcome this idol. It’s not a fast to just pause doing what you know is harmful to you and your relationship with God just to resume it when the fast ends. Let your Lenten reflection and fasts bring you closer to God and closer to setting aside that which is harmful to you or at least put that which you are fasting from in its proper place in your life. May a meditative and reflective peace be with you all this Lent. May God’s grace and peace be with you all.

Ash Wednesday  
(Mt 6:1-6, 16-18)

I always had a quick chuckle that for Ash Wednesday our reading tells us not to “practice our piety before others” because we are walking around with a cross of ash on our foreheads. Then when you read further, we are told to pray in private and not act like the hypocrites and this begs the question “What are we doing, why are we walking around with this ash cross before others.” That is where we can introduce the 4 steps of Luther’s Four-stranded garland. (1) What is the text instructing us to do? If we read the very important charge in verse 1 it adds “in order to be seen by others” Jesus is not telling us that we are supposed to hide our faith, but that a living faith is more than just being seen living that faith. For Step (2) we examine the

thanksgiving, or how I am grateful this day through this text. For me, this text is redirecting my focus. The focus is not on the spiritual practice, or on me. The focus of the text is on the living faith for other that Jesus leads us in. Then in Step (3) we enter into a confession, a question on how I have not lived up to this focus and how must I, through the grace of Jesus Christ change my focus this Lenten season. Finally, with Step (4) we enter into a prayer. We end our exercise in a prayer of hope that we will see the promise that Jesus is leading us to in the text. These 4 steps can be adapted to any text. You can use in your daily readings, or with any text you sense the Holy Spirit leading you to engaging with.

### **First Wednesday of Lent**

(Jonah 3:1-10)

We all know the story of Jonah. Finally, out of the whale, he proceeds to Ninevah to deliver God's message. The people of Ninevah have forgotten the ways of the Lord, and as we have learned many of times in scripture, memory and especially remembering are key terms to tell us something is going on. Jonah gets to Ninevah and he sure starts a whirlwind with his proclamations, and that is where I call on us to start. This time through Ignatian Imaginative prayer. I'm sure there is a call in all of our lives on where we need to slow down and repent. With the first step, let us state out intention for this prayer before we enter the scene. Now let us enter the scene. Take a deep centering breath, read the text and imagine being in Ninevah, you hear this message that is in your heart and it is calling you and pulling you. Try to imagine as many details of the scenery as you can, use all your senses to truly enter in the text and be a part of the scene. Interact with other characters you may see, how are you experiencing what is happening. Let each one of your senses speak to you in the prayer and examine where they are leading you. The purpose of this exercise is to live inside the scene, to see where is that God is calling you to go. Do not let yourself get bogged down in the whirlwind, or in the penance. Remember that God's grace will carry you through and that God is with you on this journey. Any time you find yourself losing focus, you can always take a pause with a deep centering breath. When you are finished with your prayer you can conclude with the Lord's Prayer.

### **Second Wednesday of Lent**

(Mt 20:17-28)

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# thank you

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***For our homebound:***

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

***For those grieving:*** The Family of Walter H. Gaibler, Jr., The Family of Nadine L. Pursell

***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.

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The Rev. Richard Bergen	Pastor	646-717-2407	<a href="mailto:iggyluthrich@gmail.com">iggyluthrich@gmail.com</a>
Alan Klingbeil	Council President	215-262-4974	<a href="mailto:fvflbak@gmail.com">fvflbak@gmail.com</a>
Sue Taber	Council Vice President		
Bill Schnabel	Council		
Mark Klingbeil	Council		
Patti Berk	Council	484-767-4886	<a href="mailto:angelworkscms@gmail.com">angelworkscms@gmail.com</a>
Rodney Pursell	Council		<a href="mailto:rjp81953@yahoo.com">rjp81953@yahoo.com</a>
Darla Mills	Financial Secretary		<a href="mailto:darlamills@frontier.com">darlamills@frontier.com</a>
Darlene Durns	Organist/Choir Director		<a href="mailto:dbdurns@aol.com">dbdurns@aol.com</a>
Jo Ann Emery	Church Treasurer		<a href="mailto:stluketreas@ptd.net">stluketreas@ptd.net</a>

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

# St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church

470 Church Hill Road, P.O. Box 67, Ferndale, PA 18921-0067

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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*

## March 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:*

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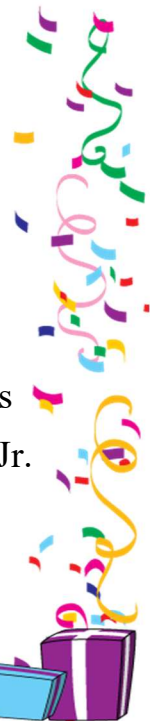
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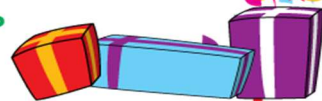
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*Happy Birthday!*



## Our congratulations and best wishes to all those celebrating special days in March!



Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ. Lent is one of my favorite times of the church year. Many are weary of Lent; however, I enjoy the meditative nature of the season. When I was in internship I wrote a Lenten devotional as part of my internship project. I would like to share the first 3 weeks of that devotional with all of you, in April I will share the final 2 weeks of the devotional. I am hoping this devotional will help you on your Lenten journey this year. In addition to this Lenten devotional, I would like to invite all of you to the PALMS soup supper and Lenten Mid-Week devotionals that will begin on Wednesday March 12<sup>th</sup> at Durham. These devotionals are great opportunity to reflect on our relationship with God and one another. They are more conversational and personal. I hope to see you all there. Lent is a time of deep reflection and even fasting. I am often asked “What are you giving up for Lent”. I always try to remind all that giving something up for Lent is a good practice. It helps remind us that God should be the focus in our lives. That the things that distract us and replace God are just empty idols. However, giving something up for 40 days and 40 nights just to go back to it is not the point. I remember one year I gave up candy. Do you know what I did once the Lenten fast was over on Holy Saturday? I ate a lot of candy. Instead of giving something up I would call on all of you to try and notice what it is about what you want to give up and meditate on it. Meditate on what it is you can do to overcome this idol. It’s not a fast to just pause doing what you know is harmful to you and your relationship with God just to resume it when the fast ends. Let your Lenten reflection and fasts bring you closer to God and closer to setting aside that which is harmful to you or at least put that which you are fasting from in its proper place in your life. May a meditative and reflective peace be with you all this Lent. May God’s grace and peace be with you all.

Ash Wednesday  
(Mt 6:1-6, 16-18)

I always had a quick chuckle that for Ash Wednesday our reading tells us not to “practice our piety before others” because we are walking around with a cross of ash on our foreheads. Then when you read further, we are told to pray in private and not act like the hypocrites and this begs the question “What are we doing, why are we walking around with this ash cross before others.” That is where we can introduce the 4 steps of Luther’s Four-stranded garland. (1) What is the text instructing us to do? If we read the very important charge in verse 1 it adds “in order to be seen by others” Jesus is not telling us that we are supposed to hide our faith, but that a living faith is more than just being seen living that faith. For Step (2) we examine the

thanksgiving, or how I am grateful this day through this text. For me, this text is redirecting my focus. The focus is not on the spiritual practice, or on me. The focus of the text is on the living faith for other that Jesus leads us in. Then in Step (3) we enter into a confession, a question on how I have not lived up to this focus and how must I, through the grace of Jesus Christ change my focus this Lenten season. Finally, with Step (4) we enter into a prayer. We end our exercise in a prayer of hope that we will see the promise that Jesus is leading us to in the text. These 4 steps can be adapted to any text. You can use in your daily readings, or with any text you sense the Holy Spirit leading you to engaging with.

### **First Wednesday of Lent**

(Jonah 3:1-10)

We all know the story of Jonah. Finally, out of the whale, he proceeds to Ninevah to deliver God's message. The people of Ninevah have forgotten the ways of the Lord, and as we have learned many of times in scripture, memory and especially remembering are key terms to tell us something is going on. Jonah gets to Ninevah and he sure starts a whirlwind with his proclamations, and that is where I call on us to start. This time through Ignatian Imaginative prayer. I'm sure there is a call in all of our lives on where we need to slow down and repent. With the first step, let us state out intention for this prayer before we enter the scene. Now let us enter the scene. Take a deep centering breath, read the text and imagine being in Ninevah, you hear this message that is in your heart and it is calling you and pulling you. Try to imagine as many details of the scenery as you can, use all your senses to truly enter in the text and be a part of the scene. Interact with other characters you may see, how are you experiencing what is happening. Let each one of your senses speak to you in the prayer and examine where they are leading you. The purpose of this exercise is to live inside the scene, to see where is that God is calling you to go. Do not let yourself get bogged down in the whirlwind, or in the penance. Remember that God's grace will carry you through and that God is with you on this journey. Any time you find yourself losing focus, you can always take a pause with a deep centering breath. When you are finished with your prayer you can conclude with the Lord's Prayer.

### **Second Wednesday of Lent**

(Mt 20:17-28)

As we continue this Lenten journey, a journey of refocus, we arrive at a familiar text that is asking us a familiar question from week one. Why does the mother of the sons of Zebedee want her sons to sit at the right and left hand of Jesus? For the sons of Zebedee, they still hold onto this notion of doing this and doing that to be seen. They want to be seen in the place of honor. Everyone wants recognition, but what they want is more than that.

As we continue with the text, let us focus on verse 25. Let us focus through a lectio divina, or a sacred reading on what in our lives are tyrants over us, and how to redirect our focus and see where God is leading us. We start in the scene that 17-22 created, but we focus on 23-28. Step (1) we read the text slowly, focus on a word that leaps out, an image. Where is the Holy Spirit waving at you, or inviting you in. Step (2) focus again on that image, or word. Read through again with the intent on seeing where God is leading you this day. Reflect on the why?. Step (3) you respond to the text. Remember, you respond with patience. The answers will not always leap at you. Listen with patience, remembering that this is a loving encounter with your creator. Step (4) a final reading, a reading in the sense of prayer. You conclude the conversation and let yourself leave in peace. The peace you leave is can propel you through the week, or help you get a new understanding of the text and what it is to serve. Remember the importance of taking deep centering breaths between the steps.

### **Third Wednesday of Lent**

#### **(Deuteronomy 4:1. 5-9)**

Moses spoke and the people listened, Moses implored the people to remember the words of the Lord and the people would often have a rocky road and forget. As we arrive at our midpoint of our Lenten journey, I want us to focus on memory, on where we have been forgetful and where the Holy Spirit is leading us back towards God's. For this we can pray through a Daily Examen, we can either pray through this examen every day until next Wednesday, or whatever days we feel the call to. Step (1) We become aware of God's presence, we recognize that we are a loved and cherished sinner in the presence of a God who loves us. Step (2) we review our day with gratitude. We look through that day and try to see were God as talking to us and leading us, where we felt grateful for that presence. Step (3) we review our whole day and we pay attention to how we responded to God's presence and were we felt God's presence. What was God' leading us to do, how did we respond, where we open to the growth the Spirit was leading us in, where were we most resistant. Step (4) we pick one moment that sticks out and we pray on that moment. Why does this moment stick out, where was God, where were we? We know what we have been taught, what we know of God's grace, did we live it, or did we ignore it. Step (5) we pray for the day that is to come and try and prepare through prayer for that day. Finally, we say the Lord's prayer and we go on with our night in the peace and comfort of God's grace.

Pastor Rich



# *Council President Report*

## **Church Council Highlights**

16 February 2025

The following items were discussed and/or voted on:

The meeting was called to Order.

The agenda was approved.

The minutes of the 12 January 2025 meeting were approved.

The treasurer's report was approved. All bills were paid.

Pastor's Report – please see his report in this newsletter.

Love Revolution Update – we missed the deadline for this past year, but we will be applying when the second round comes later this year.

Computer update – a discussion on whether we should look at replacing our old tower or replace with a laptop. At this point we will investigate both and have a recommendation for our March meeting.

The Council approved the Annual Congregational meeting for 6 April 2025 right after the service. Committee reports are due by 17 March 2025 to our secretary.

17 May 2025 at 9 am will be the annual spring clean-up. We can use many hands to get our church to look great. Please sign up in the fellowship hall.

The council discussed our Church Secretary attending the PALM group. More info is needed before we can make a decision.

The Council approve a request from WELCA for the spring rummage sale. The dates are May 2 and 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025.

On Sunday 9 March 2025 will be the Upper Bucks Conference at St. Peter's Hilltown. Two Lay members will attend.

The Annual SEPA meeting will be May 30 and 31. Pastor and Council members will attend.

Our Soup Suppers have been going very well. They are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. There will be suppers in March and April. Time 4 to 7 pm. Come and enjoy some awesome soups and fellowship with community members. Proceeds go to The Lord's Pantry and St. Luke's.

Sunday School is going well. We are seeing more kids involved.

Our Junior Choir is going well. Thanks to Darlene for getting this going.

There will be an Lutheran Day at the Iron Pigs Game on Sunday 20 April 2025 at 1:30 pm. Tickets are \$30 per person that includes admission, food and beverages. Please sign up in the fellowship hall. Make checks payable to St. Luke's.

Congratulations to our Youth Group on the efforts to help the homeless. They collected \$279.00 to be used to purchase 4 cots and other necessary items. WE are all proud of their efforts.

Tuesday March 4 - Mardi-Gras Potluck Dinner and Talent show from 5:30 pm. Come out and have some fun. Bring a covered dish.

Saturday April 19 will be our Easter Egg Hunt at 2 pm. This was well attended last year, and we look forward to having a bigger turnout this year. Any donations to help with this event are appreciated.

Ash Wednesday Service will be 5 March 2025 at 3 pm at St. Luke's.

St. Luke's will be hosting the Lenten Soup Service on 2 April 2025 at 6 pm.

There will be Stations of the Cross Service on 18 April 2025 service at 3 pm.

There were no committee reports.

Council Assignments were made.

The meeting was adjourned.

Lord's Prayer was said.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alan Klingbeil  
Church Council President.

## March Meetings



### **Church Council Meeting- Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**

Immediately following worship – all are invited to attend



### **WELCA Meeting – Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>**

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

## WELCA News

Our Spring Rummage Sale will be held on Friday May 2 and Saturday May 3. We will start setting up after church on Sunday April 27. Helpers are needed throughout the week. Please consider donating your time, baked goods and donations for the sale (no electronics, medical supplies or large furniture.) Thank you so much.

## Church News

**Bible Study** – Our Bible Study on the Book of Jonah continues on Mondays at 12:00pm. This is a 4-week study and will conclude on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Easter Flowers** – White lilies, tulips and daffodils will be available for purchase again this year. Please use the attached form to place your order as soon as possible. All orders must be in no later than Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. Flowers can be picked up after the Easter Sunday Service.

**Junior Choir** – Our Junior Choir will be singing during Sunday Worship on March 30<sup>th</sup>, April 20<sup>th</sup> and May 18<sup>th</sup>. Please reach out to Darlene Durns at 215-353-6680 with any questions or for more information about our Junior Choir. Rehearsals are on Sundays following worship.

**IronPigs** – Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> is Lutheran Day with The IronPigs at Coca-Cola Park in Allentown. There is a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for anyone interested in attending. The cost is \$30 per ticket and only 20 tickets are allotted per church. Please see attachment for more information.

**Lenten Soup Suppers** – Wednesdays during Lent the PALM Churches will be hosting soup suppers/devotions at a different location each week from 6:00pm – 7:30pm. The full schedule with dates and locations is attached and posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

St. Luke's will be hosting on Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Mardi Gras** – Our Potluck Dinner and Talent Show on March 4<sup>th</sup> was a success! Thank you to everyone who joined us for the return of this fun filled tradition.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** – St Lukes would like to thank Sarah Chadwick for her devoted service to the Prayer Shawl Ministry. For years she has been making thousands of these shawls for our sick and shut-ins. It truly is a Christian endeavor and has kept many people covered in warmth and prayers.

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**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!

**Soup Supper** – Our next Soup Supper is Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> from 4:00pm – 7:00pm. A sign up sheet for donations of soup, desserts and paper products is in the Fellowship Hall.

**Stations of the Cross** – Please join us on Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm for Stations of the Cross.

**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, March 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Youth Group** – Our next meeting is Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. Youth Group meets on the third Thursday of the month from 6:30pm to 8:00pm.

### **Save the Dates**

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Bill Schnabel	Council		
Mark Klingbeil	Council		
Patti Berk	Council	484-767-4886	<a href="mailto:angelworkscms@gmail.com">angelworkscms@gmail.com</a>
Rodney Pursell	Council		<a href="mailto:rjp81953@yahoo.com">rjp81953@yahoo.com</a>
Darla Mills	Financial Secretary		<a href="mailto:darlamills@frontier.com">darlamills@frontier.com</a>
Darlene Durns	Organist/Choir Director		<a href="mailto:dbdurns@aol.com">dbdurns@aol.com</a>
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And, all of these other social media sites: Instagram, LinkedIn, X (formerly known as Twitter)

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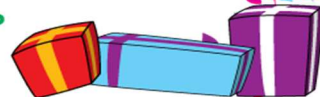
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### **First Wednesday of Lent**

(Jonah 3:1-10)

We all know the story of Jonah. Finally, out of the whale, he proceeds to Ninevah to deliver God's message. The people of Ninevah have forgotten the ways of the Lord, and as we have learned many of times in scripture, memory and especially remembering are key terms to tell us something is going on. Jonah gets to Ninevah and he sure starts a whirlwind with his proclamations, and that is where I call on us to start. This time through Ignatian Imaginative prayer. I'm sure there is a call in all of our lives on where we need to slow down and repent. With the first step, let us state out intention for this prayer before we enter the scene. Now let us enter the scene. Take a deep centering breath, read the text and imagine being in Ninevah, you hear this message that is in your heart and it is calling you and pulling you. Try to imagine as many details of the scenery as you can, use all your senses to truly enter in the text and be a part of the scene. Interact with other characters you may see, how are you experiencing what is happening. Let each one of your senses speak to you in the prayer and examine where they are leading you. The purpose of this exercise is to live inside the scene, to see where is that God is calling you to go. Do not let yourself get bogged down in the whirlwind, or in the penance. Remember that God's grace will carry you through and that God is with you on this journey. Any time you find yourself losing focus, you can always take a pause with a deep centering breath. When you are finished with your prayer you can conclude with the Lord's Prayer.

### **Second Wednesday of Lent**

(Mt 20:17-28)

As we continue this Lenten journey, a journey of refocus, we arrive at a familiar text that is asking us a familiar question from week one. Why does the mother of the sons of Zebedee want her sons to sit at the right and left hand of Jesus? For the sons of Zebedee, they still hold onto this notion of doing this and doing that to be seen. They want to be seen in the place of honor. Everyone wants recognition, but what they want is more than that.

As we continue with the text, let us focus on verse 25. Let us focus through a lectio divina, or a sacred reading on what in our lives are tyrants over us, and how to redirect our focus and see where God is leading us. We start in the scene that 17-22 created, but we focus on 23-28. Step (1) we read the text slowly, focus on a word that leaps out, an image. Where is the Holy Spirit waving at you, or inviting you in. Step (2) focus again on that image, or word. Read through again with the intent on seeing where God is leading you this day. Reflect on the why?. Step (3) you respond to the text. Remember, you respond with patience. The answers will not always leap at you. Listen with patience, remembering that this is a loving encounter with your creator. Step (4) a final reading, a reading in the sense of prayer. You conclude the conversation and let yourself leave in peace. The peace you leave is can propel you through the week, or help you get a new understanding of the text and what it is to serve. Remember the importance of taking deep centering breaths between the steps.

### **Third Wednesday of Lent**

#### **(Deuteronomy 4:1. 5-9)**

Moses spoke and the people listened, Moses implored the people to remember the words of the Lord and the people would often have a rocky road and forget. As we arrive at our midpoint of our Lenten journey, I want us to focus on memory, on where we have been forgetful and where the Holy Spirit is leading us back towards God's. For this we can pray through a Daily Examen, we can either pray through this examen every day until next Wednesday, or whatever days we feel the call to. Step (1) We become aware of God's presence, we recognize that we are a loved and cherished sinner in the presence of a God who loves us. Step (2) we review our day with gratitude. We look through that day and try to see were God as talking to us and leading us, where we felt grateful for that presence. Step (3) we review our whole day and we pay attention to how we responded to God's presence and were we felt God's presence. What was God' leading us to do, how did we respond, where we open to the growth the Spirit was leading us in, where were we most resistant. Step (4) we pick one moment that sticks out and we pray on that moment. Why does this moment stick out, where was God, where were we? We know what we have been taught, what we know of God's grace, did we live it, or did we ignore it. Step (5) we pray for the day that is to come and try and prepare through prayer for that day. Finally, we say the Lord's prayer and we go on with our night in the peace and comfort of God's grace.

Pastor Rich

# *Council President Report*

## **Church Council Highlights**

16 February 2025

The following items were discussed and/or voted on:

The meeting was called to Order.

The agenda was approved.

The minutes of the 12 January 2025 meeting were approved.

The treasurer's report was approved. All bills were paid.

Pastor's Report – please see his report in this newsletter.

Love Revolution Update – we missed the deadline for this past year, but we will be applying when the second round comes later this year.

Computer update – a discussion on whether we should look at replacing our old tower or replace with a laptop. At this point we will investigate both and have a recommendation for our March meeting.

The Council approved the Annual Congregational meeting for 6 April 2025 right after the service. Committee reports are due by 17 March 2025 to our secretary.

17 May 2025 at 9 am will be the annual spring clean-up. We can use many hands to get our church to look great. Please sign up in the fellowship hall.

The council discussed our Church Secretary attending the PALM group. More info is needed before we can make a decision.

The Council approve a request from WELCA for the spring rummage sale. The dates are May 2 and 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025.

On Sunday 9 March 2025 will be the Upper Bucks Conference at St. Peter's Hilltown. Two Lay members will attend.

The Annual SEPA meeting will be May 30 and 31. Pastor and Council members will attend.

Our Soup Suppers have been going very well. They are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month. There will be suppers in March and April. Time 4 to 7 pm. Come and enjoy some awesome soups and fellowship with community members. Proceeds go to The Lord's Pantry and St. Luke's.

Sunday School is going well. We are seeing more kids involved.

Our Junior Choir is going well. Thanks to Darlene for getting this going.

There will be an Lutheran Day at the Iron Pigs Game on Sunday 20 April 2025 at 1:30 pm. Tickets are \$30 per person that includes admission, food and beverages. Please sign up in the fellowship hall. Make checks payable to St. Luke's.

Congratulations to our Youth Group on the efforts to help the homeless. They collected \$279.00 to be used to purchase 4 cots and other necessary items. WE are all proud of their efforts.

Tuesday March 4 - Mardi-Gras Potluck Dinner and Talent show from 5:30 pm. Come out and have some fun. Bring a covered dish.

Saturday April 19 will be our Easter Egg Hunt at 2 pm. This was well attended last year, and we look forward to having a bigger turnout this year. Any donations to help with this event are appreciated.

Ash Wednesday Service will be 5 March 2025 at 3 pm at St. Luke's.

St. Luke's will be hosting the Lenten Soup Service on 2 April 2025 at 6 pm.

There will be Stations of the Cross Service on 18 April 2025 service at 3 pm.

There were no committee reports.

Council Assignments were made.

The meeting was adjourned.

Lord's Prayer was said.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alan Klingbeil  
Church Council President.

## March Meetings



### **Church Council Meeting- Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**

Immediately following worship – all are invited to attend



### **WELCA Meeting – Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup>**

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

## WELCA News

Our Spring Rummage Sale will be held on Friday May 2 and Saturday May 3. We will start setting up after church on Sunday April 27. Helpers are needed throughout the week. Please consider donating your time, baked goods and donations for the sale (no electronics, medical supplies or large furniture.) Thank you so much.

## Church News

**Bible Study** – Our Bible Study on the Book of Jonah continues on Mondays at 12:00pm. This is a 4-week study and will conclude on Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Easter Flowers** – White lilies, tulips and daffodils will be available for purchase again this year. Please use the attached form to place your order as soon as possible. All orders must be in no later than Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. Flowers can be picked up after the Easter Sunday Service.

**Junior Choir** – Our Junior Choir will be singing during Sunday Worship on March 30<sup>th</sup>, April 20<sup>th</sup> and May 18<sup>th</sup>. Please reach out to Darlene Durns at 215-353-6680 with any questions or for more information about our Junior Choir. Rehearsals are on Sundays following worship.

**IronPigs** – Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> is Lutheran Day with The IronPigs at Coca-Cola Park in Allentown. There is a sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for anyone interested in attending. The cost is \$30 per ticket and only 20 tickets are allotted per church. Please see attachment for more information.

**Lenten Soup Suppers** – Wednesdays during Lent the PALM Churches will be hosting soup suppers/devotions at a different location each week from 6:00pm – 7:30pm. The full schedule with dates and locations is attached and posted on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

St. Luke's will be hosting on Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Mardi Gras** – Our Potluck Dinner and Talent Show on March 4<sup>th</sup> was a success! Thank you to everyone who joined us for the return of this fun filled tradition.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** – St Lukes would like to thank Sarah Chadwick for her devoted service to the Prayer Shawl Ministry. For years she has been making thousands of these shawls for our sick and shut-ins. It truly is a Christian endeavor and has kept many people covered in warmth and prayers.

**Spring Rummage Sale** – WELCA will be hosting the Spring Rummage Sale on Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Setup will begin after church on Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. Helpers are needed throughout the week. Please consider donating your time, baked goods and donations for the sale (no electronics, medical supplies or large furniture). Thank you.

**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!

**Soup Supper** – Our next Soup Supper is Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> from 4:00pm – 7:00pm. A sign up sheet for donations of soup, desserts and paper products is in the Fellowship Hall.

**Stations of the Cross** – Please join us on Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm for Stations of the Cross.

**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, March 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Youth Group** – Our next meeting is Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. Youth Group meets on the third Thursday of the month from 6:30pm to 8:00pm.

### **Save the Dates**

**Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>** – Annual Congregation Meeting – following service

**Saturday, April 19<sup>th</sup>** – Easter Egg Hunt – 2:00pm

**Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>** – WELCA Spring Rummage Sale

**Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>** – Annual Spring Clean Up – 9:00am

**April Newsletter** - The cutoff for submissions and updates for the April Newsletter is Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

## **Palisades Area Lutheran Ministries (PALM) News**

**Easter Pie Sale** – St Peter's in Riegelsville is having an Easter Pie Sale. \$15 each 9-inch pie – you choose the type (sorry no lemon meringue). Orders will be taken until April 11<sup>th</sup> and pickup is Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> at St. Peter's Church from 1:00pm – 3:00pm. Please see attached flyer for details.

# thank you

**Thank you to Marie Wismer for sponsoring our March Newsletter.**

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, Elizabeth Herring

***For our homebound:***

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

***For those grieving:*** The Family of Walter H. Gaibler, Jr., The Family of Nadine L. Pursell

***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**

Church Office: 610-847-5630

e-mail: [stlukeferndale@ptd.net](mailto:stlukeferndale@ptd.net) website: [www.stlukeferndalepa.com](http://www.stlukeferndalepa.com)

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South Eastern Pennsylvania Synod	<a href="http://www.ministrylink.org">www.ministrylink.org</a>	267-323-3737	<a href="mailto:getinfo@sepa.org">getinfo@sepa.org</a>
The Rev. Bryan J. Penman	Bishop SEPA Synod		
The Rev. Richard Bergen	Pastor	646-717-2407	<a href="mailto:iggyluthrich@gmail.com">iggyluthrich@gmail.com</a>
Alan Klingbeil	Council President	215-262-4974	<a href="mailto:fvflbak@gmail.com">fvflbak@gmail.com</a>
Sue Taber	Council Vice President		
Bill Schnabel	Council		
Mark Klingbeil	Council		
Patti Berk	Council	484-767-4886	<a href="mailto:angelworkscms@gmail.com">angelworkscms@gmail.com</a>
Rodney Pursell	Council		<a href="mailto:rjp81953@yahoo.com">rjp81953@yahoo.com</a>
Darla Mills	Financial Secretary		<a href="mailto:darlamills@frontier.com">darlamills@frontier.com</a>
Darlene Durns	Organist/Choir Director		<a href="mailto:dbdurns@aol.com">dbdurns@aol.com</a>
Jo Ann Emery	Church Treasurer		<a href="mailto:stluketreas@ptd.net">stluketreas@ptd.net</a>

Visit the church's website at:  
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