

ST. LUKE NEWS & CHURCH CALENDAR

Mask are required at all times.

If you do not bring a mask with you, one will be provided.

Sunday Worship:

8:00am Indoors

10:30am Online (Recorded)

10:30am Outdoor Service (Weather permitting)

You are asked to bring your own lawn chairs and/or blankets, but you do not bring one with you, one will be provided.

SEW FINE QUILTERS Although the activity of the Sew Fine Quilters came to an abrupt halt with the onset of Covid-19, we were able to complete **82** quilts this year. The quilts will be distributed as follows:



Lutheran World Relief: 50
Project Linus: 20
Shepherd of the Street: 6
Hospice: 6

Thank you to everyone who donated materials and time to make these much-needed quilts.

A special "Thank you!" to St. Luke Thrivent members for providing monetary support. We are currently not meeting as a group but anyone who would like to work on sewing at home should contact Cindy Belles.

OCTOBER ZOOM BOOK STUDY

During the month of October, Pastors Jeff LeCrone and Ted Cockley will offer a study on the book *I'm Still Here*, by Austin Channing Brown. The School Library Journal called it an "incisive memoir [which] takes a penetrating look at race and the Christian faith while providing tools on how to cope with microaggressions and blatant racism." More details will be provided in the coming weeks, but for now, those

interested can mark their calendars: the study will take place from **3:00-4:00 pm** over three Sunday afternoons: **October 11, 18, and 25.**

Greater Lycoming CROP Walk

Sunday, October 11, 2020 at 1:00 P.M.

Masks and Social Distancing

Required The Williamsport walk begins at St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 142 Market Street, Williamsport ...with 3, 6 and 9 mile routes along the river walk.



Or design a walk of your own.

Look for more information to come..... and keep

checking our Facebook page for updates.

FROM THE PRE-SCHOOL We want to thank everyone for once again making our fall mum sale a success! If you look around the church, you will see some of those mums decorating our building for fall. **REMINDER-** if you bought mums, they can be redeemed now – Oct. 10th for a 9 inch mum (choice of color based on availability) at Simmers Nursery, 101 Park Rd., Montoursville.

WEIS: The Pre-School at St. Luke is partnering up with Weis Market in the **Weis 4 School program**. This program can earn money for the school. Please pick up a form outside the church office door in the glass foyer.

SHEPHERD OF THE STREETS

Family sized hygiene items are always a blessing and the Shepherd's shelves are almost bare! A new collection basket is now located in the Bell Hall glass vestibule (across from the office entrance) for your donations, along with the basket in the West Hall. This continues to be a necessary part of our Shepherd of the Streets ministry. The list follows:

Toothpaste and Toothbrushes
Shaving Cream and Razors

Shampoo and Conditioner
 Women's Hygiene Products
 Towels and Wash Cloths
 Bedding and Blankets
 Tissues and Toilet Paper and Paper
 Towels; Soap; Deodorant; Combs
 Adult Diapers (M, L and XL, especially
 M) Baby Diapers and Pull-Ups (Sizes 1-
 6, especially 3-6)
 Baby Shampoo; Baby Oil; Baby Wash;
 Baby Q-Tips; Baby Wipes; Baby

FOOD PANTRY *Please read carefully as instructions have changed.* The St. Luke Service Ministry invites you to join your fellow members, family and friends during these difficult times to fill "disposable" grocery bags with grocery items for the Food Pantry. The food collection basket is now located in the Bell Hall glass vestibule (across from the office entrance) for your donations.

Please do not use our St. Luke canvas bags, due to the COVID19. Thank you. Trish Whelan and her son, Danny will check the basket and deliver the food to the United Churches Food Pantry, as needed. **The pantry can always use any kind of:** *soup, ramen noodles, pasta, macaroni and cheese, granola bars, canned chicken or tuna, tea bags, hot chocolate packet, coffee, pop tarts, saltines, oatmeal packets, sugar, flour, ketchup, mustard, and all canned fruits and vegetables.*

IN OUR COMMUNITY

Sojourner Truth Ministries:

The Vision Statement at Sojourner Truth Ministries, in Williamsport, is focused on being a loving, spiritual and inclusive Christian mission. It strives to create community and build character among those it serves. These are the pillars that help our Ministry follow in the footsteps of its namesake: Sojourner Truth.

Sojourner Truth was a faith-filled woman of strength and determination,

her name alone announced her mission and needed no explanation. She was fearless and courageous throughout her life. Growing up as a slave, the mother of five and a trailblazer for women's rights, she never gave up.

She lived her life through her name, and asked that people see her for who she was, recognize her struggle, and treat her with dignity and respect. She received that respect, even when waiting for the opportunity to speak the Truth. Sojourner's (almost 6 foot) stature, her



voice of conviction, and compelling messages made a lasting impact on those around her.

To continue building on her mission of hope, understanding and respect, a new program called "Race to Truth" will be offered at Sojourner Truth Ministries. Facilitators will preview appropriate social justice documentaries and video clips that will encourage open discussion among attendees. **This new addition to the Sojourner family will begin Tuesday, October 6, 2020 from 9:30 - 11:30 am. Call 570-323-1797 for more information or to save a spot for this ongoing conversation.**

Free Community Dinner: Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1101 Washington Boulevard, Williamsport, continues to serve **monthly dinners on the second Thursdays at 5:30 pm.** All are welcome for this take-out meal with curbside distribution. Masks are required.

NAMI Of North Central Pennsylvania support groups: NAMI has restarted. The Lycoming County meeting announcement will be on their Facebook page www.Facebook.com/NAMINorthCentralPA. You'll find info there to bolster your spirit and learn things too.

From the Pastor's Desk

*"Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor,
for we are all members of one body."*

-Ephesians 4:25

Pastors love to hear about parishioners tell them that they put their sermons into practice. Recently, I preached a sermon on conflict based on a passage in which Jesus recommends beginning with a face to face conversation with the person with whom you have a conflict. I have preached on that passage on several occasions, and over the years, I have had the experience of people putting the teachings of those sermons in action. Sometimes, they've done so with me, over something I had said or done. It's never easy to hear that something you said or did hurt someone, but in each of the occasions when it has happened to me, I was grateful for the opportunity to apologize and to try to restore relationship.

Direct communication is a good thing. And it's not just helpful in times of conflict. It's also extremely helpful when there is a need. But often we may find it just as difficult to express a need as it is to express a conflict. Things that might hold us back might include embarrassment, the thought that our need might burden the other, or the fear that our need may be perceived poorly. Here's a relatable example: when someone asks you how you're doing, how often do you give an answer of "Fine!" when on the inside, you know that you're not?

I'm not suggesting that we treat everyone we talk to as our own personal complaint boxes. Complete transparency with everyone we encounter would quickly become draining to those around us, to say the least. But sometimes we do need to get better at sharing our needs with the people who have a reasonable chance to help. Especially when those people are members of the community of faith. Together, and in Christ, we make one another stronger.

During this time of social distancing, it is inevitable that people are feeling disconnected. We have made efforts to adapt, but given the huge shifts that we are making, it is quite likely that certain needs are falling through the cracks, especially for those who are not connected to means of electronic communication. I want you to know that if you are feeling a need for greater communication, better ways of staying connected, or even just a phone call from myself or another member of the church, I don't want you to hesitate. Ask.

We should offer all of our concerns to God in prayer, of course. But God also put us here for one another.

God's peace to you all!

Pastor Jeff