

**February**

1- Elaine Bigley 1- Jason Bigley

8 - Jamie Szmodis 11-Adam King

25 - Alan Szmodis 27- Alexis Szmodis 27- Paige Szmodis

**March**

2- Gail Kardos 6 - John Bigley

10-Keith Kardos 11- Earl Beltzner

14 -Mike Szmodis 19 -Jim King

20 -Jessica Ribaudo 21- Kim Hahr

26- Susan Flaherty

Birthdays will only be printed with permission.

The Birthday book is located in the Narthex.

**GIANT GIFT CARDS**

Cash for Causes cards are available from Kim Hahr.

Cards are available - $25.00, $50.00 or $100.00.

I continue to believe all these are accurate descriptions, and are a great foundation to build on, but I believe with the help of the God of our baptisms: Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, we can be more in this place.

With that being said, let me state a number of realities:

1. Jesus is what the Church has that other groups and organizations don’t.
2. The purpose and mission of the Church is to change lives in the name of Jesus.
3. Today is not an easy time to be a congregation of people in Jesus’ Church.
4. Congregations that thrive and grow focus on the mission to change lives in the name of Jesus, not on the survival of the organization.
5. Those congregations thrive and grow because people want to be part of that mission.

As I look at St. Luke’s, I believe we are doing some good things as Jesus’ people here; but I also see a congregation that is pretty much stuck. We’ve done the same things for so long that we will do them again this year and next year for as long as we can see. Everybody knows what their responsibility is. Everybody is pretty much comfortable, and knows their place. And on and on and on.

I realize that we will not change the world, but do we want to be more or do we just want to live another day? I believe that we can be better at what Jesus has called us to do. Looking ahead to 2020, let us evaluate our mission here at St. Luke’s. Let us look at what we are doing and answer two basic questions:

1. **Are we focused on the mission to change lives in the name of Jesus or on the survival of the organization?**
2. **When our neighbors look at what we are doing** *(fill in the blank)****,* do they see that we want to change lives in the name of Jesus or just keep the doors open?**

With the help of the Holy Spirit, I look forward to working together to be faithful to our mission in the name of Jesus Christ.

*Pastor Stinner*

**A few comments from Pastor Stinner on**

**Holy Communion**

As many of you know, I would like to see us celebrate Holy Communion every Sunday when we gather to worship God. Why?

Well, first of all, it was the practice of the first Christians right after the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The church comes into existence as a meal-fellowship (Acts 2:42, 46; 1 Cor. 11:17-22), in which the thanksgiving, eating, and drinking are the very place where the community discovers that the crucified one is risen (Luke 24:28-35, 41-43; Acts 10:41; John 21:1-14).

It was also the practice of Martin Luther and the first Christians who were called Lutheran. However, for a variety of historical reasons, Lutherans in America, like here at St. Luke’s, moved away from the weekly celebration of the sacrament.

Now I realize that returning to something that was done long ago may not be a convincing reason for you. I believe, however, that this meal is central to our identity as Lutherans.

My most important reason to celebrate Holy Communion more regularly is that while the Word and preaching are important and necessary to our lives as Christians, in this sacrament the crucified and risen Christ is present, giving his true body and blood as food and drink.

What this means to me is that no matter whether the sermon touches my heart, or whether the service or the music moves me, I know that in eating and drinking Christ comes to me. I need to be fed regularly. The Body and Blood of Christ is what keeps me going. Joy, grief, fear, hope, repentance, thanksgiving, anxiety, and whatever life brings are all met with the grace of God in Jesus Christ made present in bread and wine.

Beginning in February, we will be celebrating Holy Communion more often. I know some of you are not excited about that for any number of reasons. I hope that you will be open and give it a try. I believe that as the sacrament becomes more a part of our lives, you too will feel more fed as we experience the power and grace that comes in eating and drinking the Body and Blood our risen Lord Jesus Christ.



***Remember those who are in need of special prayers***

Gladys Beltzner Anna Pektor Bill Wessner

Jack Brown Earl Beltzner Doug Swope

John Famularo Devon Hawkins Joyce Reph

Richard Kuhns Jason Bigley

***Pastoral Care: Pastor Franklin Stinner***

***Home# 610-746-9695***

***Cell# 484-524-3100***

***When Pastor Frank is not available (vacation, etc.), and you have a pastoral care emergency, please contact Elaine Bigley (council president) 610-838-6629 or Kristy Yeakel (church secretary) 484-747-8426.***

**St. Luke’s Congregational Care**

Judy Molder coordinator: Congregational Care is meant to reach out to those members who could no longer attend church or perhaps has not been to Church for a while. Please know that you are missed and we are thinking of you.

We have been sending out greeting cards. Anyone wishing to send cards can find some on the window sill in the Narthex. Please keep the members and friends on our Prayer list in your thoughts. Send a greeting card to brighten their day.



**Altar Flowers for February**

2

9

16

23

**Altar Flowers for March**

1

8

15 Birthday of Jim King and Jessica Ribaudo

22

29

Many Flower dates are available. The sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex. The cost each Sunday is $30.00.

**

2 9 am Holy Communion

10 am Sunday school

6 pm Super Bowl Party

4 6:30 Council meeting

5 6:30 pm Bible Study

8 4pm Women of the ELCA Game Nite

9 9 am Worship

10 am Sunday school

10 am Music & Worship meeting

10 am WELCA meeting

12 6:30 Bible Study

16 9 am Holy Communion

10 am Sunday school

19 6:30 pm Bible Study

20 1 pm S.L.O.W. Seniors Group

22 6 pm COE: Movie Nite

23 9 am Holy Communion: Transfiguration of Our Lord

10 am Sunday school

26 7 pm Holy Communion : Ash Wednesday



1 9 am Holy Communion

10 am Sunday school

1:30 pm Penny Party

3 6:30 pm Council meeting

4 6:30 pm Bible Study

8 9 am Worship

10 am Sunday school

11 8 am Hoagies made

6:30 pm Bible Study

15 9 am Holy Communion

10 am Sunday school

18 6:30 pm Bible Study

19 1 pm S.L.O.W. Seniors Group

22 9 am Worship

10 am Sunday school

25 6:30 pm Bible Study

29 9 am Holy Communion

10 am Sunday school

**Altar List**

**Date Lector Acolyte Communion Ushers**

**Assistants**

Feb.2 K. Hahr D. Hahr K. Schoch M. Szmodis

E. Chomitzky R. Schoch

Feb. 9 J. Molder J. Ruth C. Ciganick

S. Gonsalves

Feb. 16 S. Gonsalves C. Limpar K. Schoch J. Bigley

E. Chomitzky N. Chomitzky

Feb. 23 E. Chomitzky D. Stinner K. Waggoner

J. Molder

Feb. 26 J. Ciganick B. Shaffer K. Schoch M. Szmodis

E. Chomitzky R. Kichline

Mar. 1 D. King D. Hahr D. Stinner R. Schoch

S. Gonsalves C. Ciganick

Mar. 8 J. Limpar C. Limpar S. Gonsalves

J. Bigley

Mar. 15 K. Schoch J. Yeakel D. Stinner N. Chomitzky

S. Gonsalves J. Molder

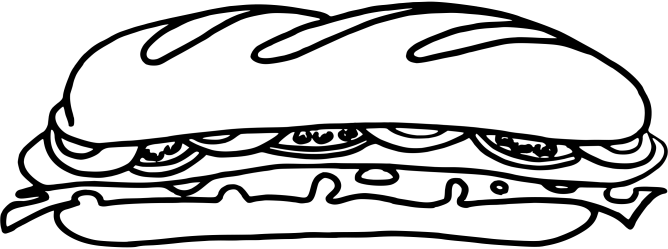
Mar. 22 D. Stinner B. Shaffer K. Waggoner R. Kichline

Mar. 29 K. Hahr D. Hahr D. Stinner M. Szmodis

S. Gonsalves R. Schoch

**Counting Teams**: February: D. Chomitzky, J. Molder

March: D. Chomitzky, D. Stinner



**St. Luke’s Hoagie Sales**

Hoagies are $4.00 each.

We offer Italian, Turkey, Ham and Cheese, and Tuna,

all with or without onions.

Hot pepper relish is available.

Hoagie orders are due Sunday, March 1 and are made Wednesday, March 11 at 8am.

Pick-up hoagies after 11am.

Hoagie orders are due Sunday, March 29 and are made Wednesday, April 8 at 8am.

Pick-up hoagies after 11am.

Deadline is 7pm on the listed Sunday due date.

We need volunteers to make the hoagies, and cleanup.

Call in your hoagie order to Kristy at 484-747-8426

**THRIVENT ACTION TEAM**

Action team events need your “Seed Money”. This is the $250.00 that Thrivent gives us. All it takes is for you to be a Thrivent member, go on the Thrivent Website and click on Action Team event and go from there. Ken Schoch can help if you have questions.

There is a sign-up sheet posted in the Social room.

If you have any questions about Thrivent please ask our Thrivent Advocates Ken Schoch or Dave and Ellen Chomitzky.

**S. L. O. W. SENIORS GROUP** This seniors group meets at 1pm on the 3rd Thursdays of the month from September to May. Bring a friend and have a fun afternoon.

February 20 Refreshments : Alice W., Doris S., Doris K., Joyce R.

Most of these people have been ill so I am asking other people to help. (Please do not bring desserts) We can make due with the store items.

March 19st meeting refreshments: all the men

Oh this is going to be a GOOD one. (Men are GREAT COOKS) IT’S MEN TURSDAY. It’s good to be special.

***NOTE: If local schools should be canceled because of bad weather, we will also cancel the meeting.***

***WOMEN OF THE ELCA* GAME NITE**



On Saturday, February 8, the Women of the ELCA will be holding our annual Covered Dish, Game Nite. (This will be our 14th Game Nite).

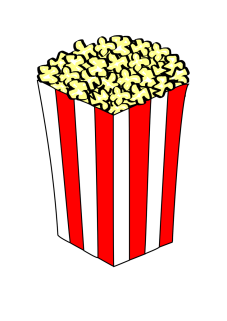
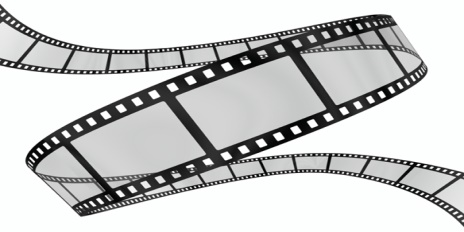
We will start at 4 pm and end around 8pm.

This good time is a family evening of playing games and food.

Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish and dessert and games to share. We ask that you please clean up after your family.

Come and enjoy this fun time with family and friends.

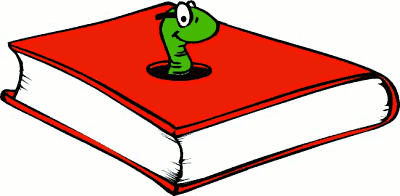
COE



February 22 we will hold a Movie Nite. As of this time we don’t have a movie picked out but it will be family friendly.

Arrive at 6pm, the movie starts by 6:30pm.

Come join the fun! Snacks and beverage provided. You may bring your family’s favorite snack to share.



**BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP**

The book to read is “A Handmaids Tale” by Margaret Atwood. The discussion group will meet Monday, March 9 at St. Luke’s. New members are welcome to join our lively group.

**PENNY PARTY**

A Penny Party will be held Sunday, March 1, at 1:30pm.

Items, baked goods, and helpers are needed.

Come and Play. There will be plenty of items!

Intermission Raffle!

Kitchen is open: Hot dogs, BBQ, and more.

Family fun for everyone!!!

**NOTE:** We will **NOT** hold a penny party in April. BUT..

We will hold a **CASH BINGO** on Saturday, May 2 at 2 pm.

Doors open at 1pm. There will also be raffles and the kitchen will be open.

**Electronic Giving**

No more need to write a check every Sunday. We now have an agreement with “Vanco” to accept your offerings electronically. Simply scan the QR Code below with your smart phone and create a profile and schedule your offerings.



Don’t know how to use a QR Code? No problem. Simply go to our website at [www.stlukesoldwilliams.com](http://www.stlukesoldwilliams.com). From there you can select Electronic Giving. You can then create an account and set up your Electronic Giving.

Never again miss your giving because you forgot your envelope or were away on vacation. You can schedule your offering for a one time deposit or repeating as long as you like from a week to unending.

If you need help getting started see or call Kristy Yeakel or Dave Chomitzky. They will be happy to help you get started.

**CONGREGATION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

The meeting was held January 19, 2020.

\*Pastor Frank Stinner has been with us for six months. He stated that Holy Communion will be offered the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays, monthly.

\*Treasurer reported the total income last year was $110,453.76. Total expense is $91,249.16. The total net income is $19,204.62.

\*Financial Secretary reported a total offering of $80,723.35.

This includes envelopes, flowers, and gifts received.

\*The Fellowship committee stated there will not be a Turkey Dinner this year. The Advent Party will be held on December 12, 2020.

\*Old Williams Cemetery Association will increase to the Cremation Burial Fee to $350.00, plus the cost of the Cremation Vault.

\*WELCA report indicated they made donations totaling $1,093.98. Four Penny Parties were held. Election of officers will take place at the February 9th meeting.

\*World Hunger/Food Bank: $70.00 was donated to World Hunger. $469.00 was raised by the Sunday school for people in need. $199.00 was given to the New Jerusalem Food Bank as a donation from Pastor Stinners Installation.

172 bags of food was donated by the congregation to the food bank.

\*St. Luke’s Old Williams (SLOW) Seniors Group meets each month from September to May on the 3rd Thursday at 1pm.

\*Christian Outreach Entertainment: A Super Bowl party and Movie nights were held. Super Bowl 2020 will take place February 2 at 6pm. Bring your favorite snack to share.

\*Caring Team: Throughout the year cards were signed with well wishes from members attending church services and sent to our sick and shut-in. Gift bags filled with donated items were distributed at Christmas time to 7 members and friends.

\*Audit Committee: Dave Chomitzky was voted in as a member. All members have a 2 year term.

\*Fund Raisers: 10% of the fund raisers this year went to Jason Bigley. Ice Cream festival profit was $5,324.00. Together the other fund raisers totaled $12,509.00.

\*Thrivent Advocates are Ken Schoch and Dave, Ellen Chomitzky. “Seed Money” sign-up sheet is posted in the Social Hall.

**NEW IDEAS FOR 2020**

\*Vanco will be available soon for Church online offerings.

\*The Clutter Buster Volunteers: sign-up to volunteer your time organizing all areas of the church building. Meetings will be held during Coffee Hour.

\*The Sunday Kitchen Volunteers sign-up sheet is posted in the Social Room. Sign-up to bring goodies on a Sunday morning and to work in the kitchen.

**Congregation meeting continued:**

**CHAIRPERSONS:**

**Living Fund Trustee**: Elected member Ellen Chomitzky will stay on the committee for another term.

**Ice Cream Festival**: Elected to serve as chairpersons are John and Elaine Bigley and Judy Molder.

Cemetery Association: Elected to 2 year terms, John Limpar and Mike Szmodis.

**Church Council**: Elected to serve a 3 year term ending 2024, Debbie King , Elaine Bigley, Judy Molder, Jan Ciganick, John Limpar, John Bigley, Ellen Chomitzky.

Election of officers will take place at the February council meeting.

**The Clutter Busters** will hold their first meeting on February 16th during Coffee Hour. Anyone interested may join the group. We will be looking into all areas of the church building and evaluating each area to determine if there is a need to organize and “clean up the clutter”. Care will be taken to determine if items are just in the wrong place (do we need to make a new place) or just have no use here any longer. We will work along with Sunday school teachers, the Sexton and maintenance crew, etc. to identify items and then make a decision. This process will not take place in just one day. We will have many meetings and Clutter Buster work days so if you can’t make one day there will be others.

Thank you for your support.

Rolene Kichline

**Pastors Report to the Congregation**

**at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church**

**January, 2020**

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

A little over six months ago, I became the pastor here at St. Luke’s. It has been a time of transition for all of us. You have begun to get accustomed to the way I do things, and I am getting to know how the congregation does things. I have tried to spend this time listening and watching, and getting a sense of what’s what and who’s who, etc.

First let me say, Debi and I have never (and I don’t use that word often) been as warmly welcomed as we have been here. Also, in the same light, I have never ( and again I don’t use that word often) in all my stops in ministry felt in my heart a sense that I just like you and feel at ease among you. I have really come to love you folks in a way that is hard to describe.

Before I accepted this call, there were folks that told me that I should not come here: that there were just too many obstacles to move ahead. Others wondered why I did not just apply for disability for the neuropathy in my feet, and go quietly into the sunset.

But it is not in my nature to give up. And if you ask Debi or anybody who really knows me, I do not accept “good enough” in me or anything I am involved with. I sought and accepted this call because I felt I still had something to offer Christ’s church and his people, and that there were a lot of challenges, but also a lot of hope with a bunch of good people here at St. Luke’s.

At one of the first Congregational Council meetings I attended, we came up with this list of strengths of our congregation:

* Multi-talented
* Friendly
* Local outreach
* Sense of family
* Caring and sharing
* Welcoming
* Casual atmosphere
* Strong leadership
* Volunteerism

I continue to believe all these are accurate descriptions, and are a great foundation to build on, but I believe with the help of the God of our baptisms: Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit, we can be more in this place.

With that being said, let me state a number of realities:

1. Jesus is what the Church has that other groups and organizations don’t.
2. The purpose and mission of the Church is to change lives in the name of Jesus.
3. Today is not an easy time to be a congregation of people in Jesus’ Church.
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With the help of the Holy Spirit, I look forward to working together to be faithful to our mission in the name of Jesus Christ.

***Pastor Stinner***

**AMAZON**

Amazon Smile will donate .5% of your purchases to St. Luke’s. If you are an Amazon Prime member you will still get all the great benefits that there is to offer, plus you will be helping out St. Luke’s as well. Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-1976329>. Log in and select St. Luke’s Lutheran Church as the charity of your choice. Bookmark or save this web address, so each time you shop you are helping the church as well. Thank you in advance for supporting St. Luke’s Church.

**WEB PAGE, FACEBOOK & A/V ANNOUNCEMENTS**

To make sure I don’t miss your event or announcement on the web page, Facebook page and the A/V announcements please email the complete information to me at [dchomitzky@yahoo.com](mailto:dchomitzky@yahoo.com). Thanks. Dave C.

**FOOD BANK**

Members and friends of St. Luke’s Church have donated 172 bags of food to the New Jerusalem food bank in 2019. That is 26 deliveries for Lou Gonsalves.

Bring items each Sunday to be put in the basket in the Narthex. The basket will be carried to the Altar along with the offering. The items at the food bank will be distributed in the Hellertown and surrounding communities. If you know of someone or a family in need or have questions please contact New Jerusalem Church.