



A Word from Minister Bobbie



"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven."

— Ecclesiastes 3:1

Dear Church Family,

As we enter August, many of us find ourselves trying to make the most of the remaining summer. We want to still experience more, while looking back on what we have enjoyed, while preparing our hearts and calendars for the new rhythms of the coming next season.

This summer has been a vibrant season for our church community. Though the season may have been one of vacations, our church family has been actively living out our mission. St. Luke participated in the Philadelphia Street Fair and met many of our neighbors. The Clothing Rack has been busy all summer, being open to the community. In June we welcomed three new members, and confirmed Azlyn and Carter Ramus, followed by a pot-luck luncheon. These moments weren't just busy events—they were holy opportunities to live out God's purpose for this season.

And yet, even in the midst of our ministries, we're reminded that summer is also a time for rest, renewal, and making memories with those we love. I hope this month you'll take time to slow down—have that long

conversation on the porch, take that walk with your children or grandchildren, watch a sunset, and give thanks for the simple blessings God provides. These are not distractions from our faith journey—they are part of it.

Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is a season for everything. As we prepare for the fall—with new ministry opportunities, spiritual growth, and perhaps even new challenges—we do so with the confidence that God is already there, guiding and providing. Let's enter every season with faith, unity, and joyful anticipation of what He has planned.

Enjoy these final weeks of summer. Make memories, find moments of peace, and know that your church is praying for you in every season.

With love in Christ,
Minister Bobbie



God's Work, Our Hands

Calling All Knitters

Shriner's Hospital and a family shelter need all sizes of hats. If you prefer making lap blankets or prayer shawls, those are also requested. Yarn is available in the room across from Minister Bobbie's office as well as a loom to make the hats.

Wendy Gilbert, a CCR volunteer, recently took two large bags (about 50 newly crocheted hats) to the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. These were made by the women of St. Luke. Thank you, Knitters.

Hats of Hope

Ruth Nice, with support from a Thrivent grant, has lovingly crafted and donated 53 hats and 2 blankets to benefit patients at Shriners Hospital and a local clinic. Her granddaughters, Emily and Sarah, who work at these facilities, inspired the project through their dedication and care. This heartfelt contribution brings comfort and warmth to those in need, and beautifully reflects the spirit of giving across generations.



Miscellaneous Donations



Thanks to your generous contributions, clothing from our Community Clothing Rack was shared with PA Workwear and Opportunity House, supporting individuals in need of

professional and everyday attire.

Additionally, St. Luke delivered 18 suitcases to Safe Berks, extending compassion and hope to those seeking safety and support. Thank you for giving so generously to these meaningful causes. Your kindness makes a real difference!

Thank You

Gilbertsville Fire & Rescue Co. sent the following thank you for the Endowment grant money that St. Luke donated.

We would like to thank the Mission Endowment Committee and St. Luke Lutheran Church of Gilbertsville, Pennsylvania for their generous donation of \$1,300.00 for the purchase of new wildland firefighting gear. Our department has seen a spike in wildland and woods fire responses in the last year or two due to dry conditions. Our heavy structural firefighting gear is not ideal for those firefighting conditions and causes stress and exhaustion to our volunteers. We thank you and your congregation for your continued support our 100% volunteer fire company.



Back to School Blessing

Please mark the date.

St. Luke will hold its Back to School Blessing worship service on **Sunday, August 24.**

Children, teachers and school staff are encouraged to bring their backpacks as the Minister Bobbie offers a special blessing for each child, teacher, and their school bags. Join us as we pray for a joyful, safe, and successful school year!



Back to School Blessing & Supply Drive

As part of our Back to School Blessing worship service on Sunday, August 24, the Evangelism Committee will be collecting school supplies throughout August to support local students and teachers. All donated items, along with the students and educators in attendance, will be blessed during the service.

Donation Drop-Off

Look for the designated drop-off area in the church narthex starting in August. We welcome contributions of new school supplies to help equip classrooms and support learning.

Thrivent-Supported Outreach

Ruth Nice will be leading this effort with the help of a Thrivent grant, aiming to gather as many supplies as possible to benefit our local schools and students.

Following is a list of school supplies needed:

- ♦ Pencil box or pouch
- ♦ #2 pencils
- ♦ Erasers
- ♦ Personal pencil sharpener
- ♦ Crayons (at least 8)
- ♦ Colored pencils
- ♦ Glue sticks
- ♦ Elmers glue
- ♦ Student scissors
- ♦ A sticky note pad
- ♦ Student whiteboard
- ♦ Whiteboard markers
- ♦ A sock for erasing
- ♦ Composition or lined notebook
- ♦ Earbuds
- ♦ Water bottle



July Attendance	
July 6	43
July 13	36
July 20	39
July 27	52
2025 Yearly Average	47.8
2024 Yearly Average	50.8

Sponsors

There are open slots for sponsoring the Flowers, Communion Elements, Sanctuary Lamp and Bulletins for our weekly worship services in 2025.

Communion Elements, Sanctuary Lamp and Bulletins are a \$10 donation. Flowers are purchased and brought to the sanctuary. Please see the sponsor form on the bulletin board for open dates or call the church office if you would like to sponsor a date. You can always put a note in Marsha's mailbox in the library.



We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty.” - Author Unknown



St. Luke Prayer Chain Ministry

As a reminder, St. Luke has an active prayer chain ministry. If you have a life event or health concern that you would like to have aided by prayer, please call the church office. We have a group of prayer warriors lead by Ruth Nice who are here for your needs.

Anyone can place a request for prayers by calling Ruth Nice, Marsha Staub, or any member of the Prayer Chain. We will receive your prayer request: determine how you want it worded, and proceed.

We are incredibly careful about confidentiality and present the request as you desire.

Jesus said, 'in all things what so ever you ask in my name, you shall receive.'

Ways to Give Monetary Donations to St. Luke Lutheran

You can donate to St. Luke by using several methods. Here are some suggestions to make your contribution easier to give.

Church envelopes - If you don't currently have envelopes, please contact the church office and a box of envelopes will be provided.

There are generic envelopes by the offering plate on the table in the lobby at the entrance to the sacristy.

Mail your donations to St. Luke, PO Box 388, Gilbertsville, PA 19525

Go to <https://stlukegilbertsville.org/generosity> and click on the "Generosity" page.

From your smartphone, text 73256, in the message area key STLUKE

Scan the QR below and follow the prompts.



Hymns for Summer Worship

Do you have a favorite hymn that you'd love to sing this summer? We'd love to hear your selections! In the Narthex, you'll find slips of paper where you can write down your favorite hymn and drop it in the designated basket. Our Music Director will choose some of these beloved hymns to include in our worship services. Stay "tuned"—we may be singing your favorites soon!



St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church

35 Wilson Ave., PO Box 338
Gilbertsville, PA 19525

Council Meeting Minutes

Date: June 12, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:50pm by Leslie Romasco President. The motion passed. Our meeting was held in person.

Attendance: Pam Reifsnyder, Donna Biehl, Mike Ferraro, SAM Bobbie Hoffman, Scott Moyer, Vince Harris, Tom Undercuffler, Leslie Romasco, John Bealer and Dave Janzow

Excused: Dave Girton, Pete Huber, Joe Vendetti and Bonnie Kuser

Adoption of Current Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was adopted as is with a motion by Tom Undercuffler and second by Dave Janzow. The motion passed.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting of May 8, 2025, were approved with a motion by Tom Undercuffler and second by Vince Harris. The motion passed.

Devotions were by Tom Undercuffler.

Sharing was held.

Correspondence: None.

❖ Unfinished/Old Business

➤ **Stewardship** – Did not meet in June, next meeting July 9.

➤ **Rental Agreement** – The agreement is completed, and fees will \$100 for members and \$150 for non-members. Tom made a motion to accept the new agreement. Council voted and motion passed.

➤ **Updating the Church directory** – The directory is completed. Everything Printing will print it.

➤ **Administrative Assistant Search Team** – The team completed the job description. Donna made a motion to accept the description. Council voted motion passed.

➤ **Carillon** – Expected to be shipped on June 16.

❖ **Pastor's Report** – The street fair was a success. On June 8, 3 new members were welcomed and Carter and Aslyn were confirmed.

❖ **Treasurer's Reports (see report)**

➤ Tom Undercuffler made a motion to accept the report and Dave Janzow made a second. The motion passed.

Committees

❖ Standing Committees

➤ **Worship & Music** – No meeting in June.

➤ **Stewardship**

➤ **Finance** – Dave Janzow made a motion to remove Mary Ann Siefke as signatory and add Barbara Hoffman as signatory on the St Luke Pastor's Discretionary Account at Truist Bank. Scott Moyer and Pete Huber will remain as additional signatories. Council voted and motion passed.

➤ **Evangelism** – Library is ready and Property Committee will dig a hole so it can be set up. Street fair was a success.

➤ **Social Ministry** – Report submitted

➤ **Property Committee** – Tom purchased a leaf blower. A recommendation was made to see if Council was in favor of looking into replacing the wooden sheds with storage pods. Council agreed to allow Scot to research which includes talking to the Scouts.

➤ **Endowment**

➤ **Youth Group**

➤ **Christian Ed** – Women's retreat scheduled for Jan 30, 2026.

➤ **Parish Life**

➤ **Mutual Ministry**

➤ **Audit**

❖ Organizations

➤ **Clothing Rack**

➤ **Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts** – Scouts had their annual Charter night and St Luke honored for 90 years of scouting.

➤ **Community Connections/St Luke Knolls**

New Business –

➤ **Dave Janzow resigning** – Dave is moving out of the area and officially resigned from Council.

➤ **Girl Scout Request** – Sharon Smith made a written request asking if the Girl Scouts could use the church. Aug 23. 2025 Rain Gutter Regatta and April 4. 2026 Easter Egg hunt. Council voted and request granted.

➤ **July 10 Council meeting** – Council voted to skip the July meeting and have a combined July/Aug meeting in August.

➤ **Website** – Leslie is working on the website. She made a motion to remove Pastor Mary Ann's sermons from there to make room for current information. Council voted motion passed.

Adjournment

❖ Dave Janzow moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm. Tom Undercuffler seconded the motion and the motion passed.

❖ Tom Undercuffler concluded with a prayer.

❖ Our next meeting is Thursday, August 14, 2025, at 6:45 pm.

❖ Leslie Romasco will lead devotions at the next meeting.

❖ John Bealer will provide refreshments.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Reifsnyder
Secretary of Church Council

August Birthdays

August 2	Emily Geiger
	Nathan Stern
August 3	Ginny Nelson
	Steven Rhoads
August 6	Harry Smith
August 8	Salem Frech
August 12	Merrie Gephart
August 16	Steven Gregory
August 18	Brenda Jacob
	Tracy Treichler
August 22	Joshua Treichler
August 24	Debra Houseknecht
August 29	Molli Tabakalis
August 30	Alexis Henson
	Gena Levengood
August 31	Dan Rome

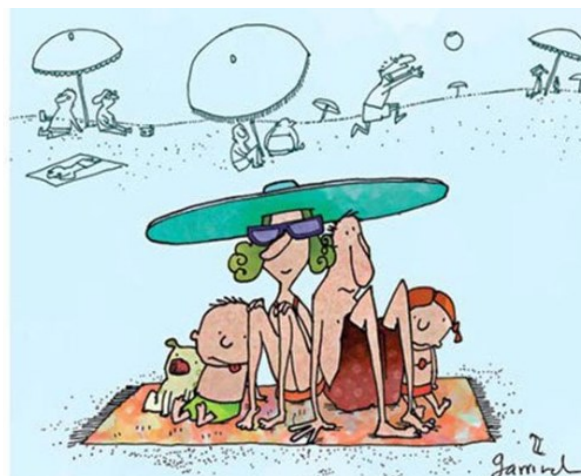
Wedding Anniversaries

August 2	Scott & Christyann Pulliam
August 4	Chris & Krystle Hess
August 23	Mike and Linda Shalaway
August 26	Ron & Celeste Ball
August 30	William & Nancy Vendetti

If you celebrate an anniversary but it is not listed or have any other corrections, please contact the church office.

St. Luke Calendar

August 1	AA 8:30pm
August 3	8th Sun. after Pentecost 9:30am
August 5	Worship and Music 3:00pm
	Scouts 7:00pm
August 6	CCR Donations 9:00am to Noon
August 8	AA 8:30pm
August 10	9th Sun. after Pentecost 9:30am
August 12	Scouts 7:00pm
August 13	CCR Shopping 9:00am to Noon
August 14	CCR Shopping 6:00 to 8:00pm
	Council Meeting 6:45pm
August 15	AA 8:30pm
August 17	19th Sun. after Pentecost 9:30am
August 19	Scouts 7:00pm
August 20	CCR Shopping 9:00am to Noon
August 22	AA 8:30pm
August 23	Rain Gutter Regatta 10am to 3:00pm (Girl Scouts)
August 24	11th Sun. after Pentecost 9:30am
	Back to School blessing at worship
August 26	Scouts 7:00pm
August 27	CCR Shopping 9:00am to Noon
August 29	AA 8:30pm
August 31	12th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30am



Mom-brella

Worship Leader Schedule

Date	Worship Leader	Lector	Ushers	Audio Visual	Office Volunteer
Aug. 3	Min. Bobbie Hoffman	Joe Vendetti	Larry Billger Terry Conrad	Ron Ball	Cindy Bealer (July 31)
Aug. 10	Dennis Faust	Kathy Billger	Gary Fronheiser Ron Hukari	Mike Ferraro	Pat Hallman (August 7)
Aug. 17	Min. Bobbie Hoffman	Pat Hallman	Dave Girton Pete Huber	Ron Hukari	Donna Biehl (August 14)
Aug. 24	Min. Bobbie Hoffman	Emily Geiger	Larry Billger Terry Conrad	Ron Ball	Cindy Bealer (August 21)
Aug. 31	Min. Bobbie Hoffman	Connie Hukari	Gary Fronheiser Ron Hukari	Mike Ferraro	Pat Hallman (August 28)

Sacristan for August — Merrie Gephart/Debbie Harris



“A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows.” - St Francis of Assisi



ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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