



## A Word from Minister Bobbie

Church Family, grace and peace to you in this holy season of Lent. As we continue our journey toward Easter, I am reminded of the words of **Joel 2:12**:



***"Even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning."***

Lent is an invitation — not simply to give something up, but to return. To return to the Lord with all our hearts. For many, Lent means fasting from something familiar — perhaps chocolate, social media, or another daily comfort. For others, it means adding something meaningful — reading Scripture each day, setting aside intentional time for prayer, or serving those in need at a local food bank. These practices are helpful and meaningful. They can clear space in our busy lives. But the purpose of that space is what matters most.

The heart of Lent is not self-improvement. It is Christ-centered reflection. This is a season to think deeply about Jesus, who He is and what He has done. We remember that He is not only our teacher or our moral example, but our Savior. We reflect on His humility, His compassion, His suffering, and His sacrifice. We consider the cross that looms ahead on Good Friday and the empty tomb that awaits us on Easter morning.

Lent slows us down long enough to remember that Jesus Christ gave Himself for

all humanity, and for each of us personally. He loves you. He knows your name, your struggles, your hopes, and your fears. He walked the road to Calvary with you in His heart.

Whatever you choose to do this season — fasting, adding a spiritual discipline, serving others, let it draw your attention back to Him. Let every hunger pang remind you of your deeper hunger for Christ. Let every act of service remind you of the One who came not to be served, but to serve. Let every moment in Scripture be an encounter with the living Lord.

As we prepare our hearts for Easter, may we not rush past the cross. May we sit at the feet of Jesus. May we listen. May we remember. May we return to focusing on Him.

Gracious Lord Jesus, As we continue on in this season of Lent, turn our hearts toward You. Strip away distractions that keep us from seeing You clearly. Whether we fast or feast, serve or study, help us do all of it for the sake of knowing You more. Remind us of Your great love shown at the cross. Prepare us to rejoice with full hearts on Easter morning, because we have walked closely with You along the way. Deepen our faith, renew our spirits, and draw us nearer to You each day. In Your holy name we pray, Amen.

In Christ's Love,  
Minister Bobbie



## God's Work, Our Hands

### White Elephant Bingo

Saturday night was so much fun- fellowship, food and lots of laughs! Bonnie Kuser and Kathy Undercuffler planned a "White Elephant Bingo" event. Wrapped "treasures" were the bingo prizes. You could select a prize from the table or steal from another person. The stealing caused many laughs. The evening was so successful that an April date and theme will soon be announced!

### The Scouts (Troop 36) Pancake Breakfast

Thank you to everyone who attended the Scout Pancake and Sausage Breakfast on February 22. The food was yummy and the Scouts were great hosts. It was the perfect pre-snow meal!



## March Birthdays

Mar. 3	Linda Fronheiser Marissa Goggins
Mar. 6	Gene Musser Randy Reifsnyder
Mar. 7	Gloria Christman Elizabeth McAdoo
Mar. 8	Ruth Ann Shaner
Mar. 9	Karen Girton Christine Winsor
Mar. 14	Blake Durante
Mar. 15	Carol Geiger
Mar. 19	Dennis Harvey Pam Reifsnyder
Mar. 22	Beth Ferraro Sharee Kenna Joyce Minninger
Mar. 24	Jennifer Mayberry
Mar. 25	Celeste Ball Adrian Finger
Mar. 27	Debra Harris Michael Romasco
Mar. 29	Michael Ferraro
Mar. 31	George Jacob

## February Attendance

February 1	51
February 8	70
February 15	51
February 22	53
2026 Yearly Average	55.75
2025 Yearly Average	42.4

## St. Luke Calendar

Mar. 1	Second Sunday in Lent 9:30 am
Mar. 3	Scouts 7:00 pm
Mar. 4	Worship & Music 2:00 pm CCR Donations 1:00-4:00 pm  Lenten Worship 7:00 pm
Mar. 5	Scouts 6:30 pm
Mar. 6	AA 8:30 pm
Mar. 8	Third Sunday in Lent 9:30 am
Mar. 10	Scouts 7:00 pm
Mar. 11	CCR Shopping 1:00-4:00 pm  Lenten Worship 7:00 pm
Mar. 12	CCR Shopping 6:00-8:00 pm Council Meeting 6:45 pm
Mar. 13	AA 8:30 pm
Mar. 15	Fourth Sunday in Lent
Mar. 17	Scouts 7:00 pm
Mar. 18	CCR Shopping 1:00-4:00 pm Lenten Worship 7:00 pm
March 19	Scouts 6:30 pm
Mar. 20	AA 8:30 pm
Mar. 22	Fifth Sunday in Lent
Mar. 24	Scouts 7:00 pm
Mar. 25	CCR Shopping 1:00-4:00 pm Lenten Worship 7:00 pm
Mar. 27	AA 8:30 pm
Mar. 29	Palm Sunday 9:30 am
Mar. 31	Scouts 7:00pm

## Wedding Anniversaries

Mar. 5	Larry & Kathy Billger
Mar. 17	Dan & Jean Rome



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



## Endowment Applications

St. Luke Endowment applications are now being considered. If you would like an application, please contact the church office at 610-367-9738. Applications are due April 12th.

## Sponsors

There are open slots for sponsoring the Communion Elements, Sanctuary Lamp and Bulletins for our weekly worship services in 2026.

Communion Elements, Sanctuary Lamp and Bulletins are a \$10 donation. Please call the church office if you would like to sponsor a date or put a note in Christine's mailbox in the library.

***"Lent is the autumn of the spiritual life during which we gather fruit to keep us going for the rest of the year." - St. Francis De Sales***

## 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, Christine Winsor, 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.

In 2025, we received thirty-six (36) prayer requests. Jesus said, "In all things whatsoever you ask in my name, you shall receive." Have you had a conversation with God today? When we pray together, we divide our burdens, and multiply our joys.

## Mid-Week Lenten Worship

Join us for Lenten Services:

### Ash Wednesday

February 18th at 7pm

### Lenten Services (Including Holden Evening Prayer)

February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25 at 7 pm

### Palm Sunday

March 29th at 9:30 am

### Maundy Thursday Service

April 2 at 7 pm

### Good Friday Service

April 3 at 7 pm.

### Easter Sunday

April 5th at 9:30 am



We joyfully invite you to gather with our church family as we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ through worship, Scripture, and song. We will have a special children's message. These services offer a meaningful time of renewal, hope, and celebrating the promise of eternal life. Please invite a friend, neighbor, coworker, or family member to come with you. We hope you will join us for these meaningful services.

## Women's Overnight Retreat

From January 30 through February 1, 2026, a group of nine women (6 members of St. Luke, 1 member of St. John's (Boyertown) and 2 members of St. James, (Pottstown) gathered at Daylesford Retreat Center for a peaceful and enriching overnight retreat centered on the theme "Abide With Me."

Although the weather outside was bitterly cold, the atmosphere inside was warm and welcoming. We were graciously received with heartfelt hospitality, delicious meals, and comfortable accommodations that made our stay both restful and enjoyable. Throughout the weekend, we participated in prayer services with the resident priests, attended Sunday worship at the beautiful church, engaged in insightful Bible study, and shared in meaningful discussions that deepened our understanding of what it means to abide in Christ. A special highlight was the opportunity to express our reflections creatively through watercolor artwork. Our evenings were filled with fellowship, laughter, and fun games that strengthened our bonds and created lasting memories. The retreat was a beautiful time of spiritual renewal, connection, and joy for all who attended.



## King of Kings Free Movie Matinee



St Luke is showing King of Kings Saturday, March 21, at 1 pm. We will also be providing free snacks for the community. If everyone could donate popcorn, goldfish or fruit snacks to be served to the community, that would be helpful. Thank you in advance for your generosity!





**St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
35 Wilson Ave. PO Box 338  
Gilbertsville, PA 19525

## **St. Luke Lutheran Church**

### **Congregational Council Meeting Minutes February 12, 2026**

The meeting was called to order at 6:57 pm by Council President Leslie Romasco.

Attendance: Minister Bobbie Hoffman, Leslie Romasco, Scott Moyer, John Bealer, Donna Biehl, Donna Conrad, Dave Durante, David Girton, Vince Harris, Connie Hukari, Pete Huber.

Excused: Tom Undercuffler.

#### **Adoption of Current Agenda**

The agenda for the meeting was approved with a motion by John Bealer and seconded by Donna Conrad. The motion passed.

#### **Approval of Minutes from Previous Council Meeting**

Minutes of the previous meeting of January 8, 2026 were approved with a motion by Pete Huber and seconded by John Bealer. The motion passed.

**Devotions** were led by Pete Huber.

**Sharing** was held.

#### **Unfinished/Old Business**

Updating Church Directory – Leslie reported that the directory will be picked up on Friday, February 13.

Organist/Music Director – John Bealer reported that the search team will be meeting with Bruce Tonkin to discuss his interest as a possible interim director. John shared with council a list of the interim responsibilities that had been provided to Bruce. The cost of a supply organist/pianist was discussed. We currently pay \$175 per Sunday which is in line with what other churches in the area pay. It was in agreement that a starting salary would be offered and if Bruce agrees to start a choir and maintain it, we'll discuss a possible increase.

Bobbie suggested a pool of cantors be considered as well to lead the congregation in the hymns when a choir is not present.

There was discussion about having a trumpet perform for Easter at a cost \$250. The council decided that rather than paying for a trumpeter, the interim director could work with the congregation members to share their musical gifts. This should be added to the list of interim director responsibilities.

Update on heater – Scott reported the heater is working and no invoice has been received to date.

#### **Reports**

Pastor's Report – Minister Bobbie reported that members of the congregation will again share their reflections during the Lent services. The youth will meet this Saturday in memorial hall for snacks, games and will make valentines to be shared with the congregation on Sunday. Minister Bobbie also reported that a one-day women's retreat will be held at St. Luke on September 26. There will be a worship service, breakout sessions with the theme: You are awesome and wonderfully made. A lunch will be catered with pampering to be held in the afternoon. Also, a free movie matinee will be held on March 21. The movie King of Kings will be shown. She is planning to invite new members to join St. Luke after Easter. A summer series is to be planned with the theme: Just because you asked.

Treasurer's Report – Scott reviewed the report with Council. A motion was made by Connie Hukari to accept the report, seconded by Vince Harris. The motion passed.

#### **Committees**

Worship & Music – A written report was submitted.

Evangelism – Dave Giron reported that a first responder blessing is being scheduled for May 17.

Social Ministry – Connie Hukari reported that she and Bonnie Kuser delivered a van full to supplies to the St. Joseph's Men's Mission in Philadelphia. The supplies included clothing provided by the clothing rack and 35 handmade hats.

Mutual Ministry – No report.

Property Committee – Dave Girton recommended creating a list of improvements needed at St. Luke. A brainstorming session will be held at the next council meeting.

Finance – It was recommended that council form a committee to review the list of those members receiving offering envelopes. Dave Durante volunteered to chair the committee. Other members include Bobbie Hoffman, Donna Conrad and Connie Hukari.

Audit – No report.

Endowment – No report.

Parish Life – No report.

Youth Group – No report.

Christian Ed – No report.

Stewardship – No report.

### **Organizations**

The Community Clothing Rack – Connie shared an update with the Social Ministry report.

Scouts/Girl Scouts – Scott shared that the scouts and leaders were happy to participate in St. Luke's scout Sunday.

Community Connections/St. Luke Knolls – No report.

### **New Business**

Follow-up on annual meeting to include email from Tom Undercuffler – All agreed the annual meeting went well. Following the meeting, an email was submitted by Tom Undercuffler recommending an account be established to include undesignated donations as opposed to including them in the checking account. Scott Moyer explained that normally there isn't a large cushion of funds in our checking account. The additional money was due to the fact that they have been working with Vanguard to move the money into an interest-bearing account and it has not been an easy task. He indicated a recommendation as to the amount of money to now move into Vanguard will be ready for

next council meeting. After the money is moved, a comfortable cushion will remain in checking. Pete reported that we already have an account in place for undesignated donations and written guidelines as to how to handle these donations.

Renewal of contract for SAM due to SEPA Synod March 2026 – Leslie reported that it will be time to renew Minister Bobbie's contract in March. A motion was made by Vince Harris that her contract be renewed and seconded by Connie Hukari. The motion passed.

Women's Bible Study Group Report and Recommendation – Leslie reported that the women's bible study retreat was a success and that 6 attended from St. Luke, 2 from St. James in Pottstown and 1 from St. John's. Leslie recommended that the \$300 cost to attend the retreat for Sharon Smith, who did a fantastic job as facilitator, be paid by St. Luke. The recommendation was unanimously approved by council.

Donation to Gilbertsville Ambulance – Scott recommended a \$500 donation be made to the Gilbertsville Ambulance. A motion to accept the recommendation was made by Minister Bobbie with a second by Dave Durante. The motion passed.

Plan to arrange retirement fund for Minister Bobbie – Scott has a connection with Scott Worley from Schwab to help to establish a retirement fund for Minister Bobbie. Council was in agreement with Scott moving forward with Scott.

A recommendation was made that the hymns printed in the bulletin be made larger so they are easier to read.

Adjournment – Donna Conrad moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm. Connie Hukari seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

We concluded with prayer by Pete Huber.

Our next meeting is Thursday, March 12, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Biehl  
Secretary of Church Council

## Worship Leader Schedule

Date	Worship Leader	Lector	Ushers	Audio Visual	Office Volunteer
Mar. 1	Min. Bobbie Hoffman	Kathy Billger	Larry Billger Terry Conrad	Mike Ferraro	Cindy Bealer (Feb. 26)
Mar. 8	Min. Bobbie Hoffman	Carol Geiger	Gary Fronheiser Ron Hukari	Ron Ball	Pat Hallman (Mar. 5)
Mar. 15	Min. Bobbie Hoffman	Joe Vendetti	Dave Girton Pete Huber	Ron Hukari	Donna Biehl (Mar. 12)
Mar. 22	Min. Bobbie Hoffman	Pat Hallman	Larry Billger Terry Conrad	Ron Ball	Cindy Bealer (Mar. 19)
Mar. 29	Min. Bobbie Hoffman	Mike Romasco	Gary Fronheiser Ron Hukari	Mike Ferraro	Pat Hallman (Mar. 26)

Sacristan for March - Sandi Quicksell ( With the exception of March 1. )



### Inclement Weather

In the event that we have inclement weather affecting Sunday's worship, a message will be left on the church phone at 610-367-9738. If you hear the

"normal" message, church is not cancelled.



*"God does not give us everything we want, but He does fulfill His promises, leading us along the best and straightest paths to Himself."—Dietrich Bonhoeffer*



### ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

35 Wilson Ave., P.O. Box 338  
Gilbertsville PA, 19512

610-367-9738

stluke19525@outlook.com

[stlukegilbertsville.org](http://stlukegilbertsville.org)

