



A Word from Minister Bobbie



"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands."

— Psalm 19:1 (NIV)

October greets us with a quiet majesty—crimson leaves fluttering in the

breeze, golden sunsets stretching across the sky, and the comforting return of sweaters, warm drinks, and crisp afternoon walks. It's a month when God's handiwork is on full display, painting the world in vibrant hues and reminding us of the beauty that surrounds us daily.

As we enjoy the sights, sounds, and scents of fall—pumpkin spice, rustling leaves, cool breezes—let's pause to give thanks. This is a special season to breathe deeply, soak in the warmth of community, and be reminded of our Creator's loving presence in all things.

October also gives us a bit of a calm before a very busy season begins. November brings the joy of All Saints Day, the excitement of our beloved Craft Fair, and the gratitude of Thanksgiving worship. December, of course, will be filled with the wonder and anticipation of celebrating Christ's birth.

So in this moment—this colorful, cozy, fleeting month of October—take time to be still. Sit on the porch. Watch the leaves fall. Sip your coffee slowly. Marvel at the sunset. Thank God for the gift of creation, and for a

season that points so clearly to His creativity, goodness, and glory.

Let's cherish October—not just for its beauty, but as a reminder to rest, reflect, and rejoice in the One who made it all.

Prayer:

Creator God, we thank You for the beauty of this season. As the leaves change and the air turns crisp, help us to pause and notice Your handiwork all around us. May the colors of fall remind us of Your creativity, Your faithfulness, and the changing seasons of our lives. Teach us to slow down, to give thanks, and to look ahead with hope. In the busyness to come, help us hold on to the peace and wonder of this moment. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

With love in Christ,
Minister Bobbie



God's Work, Our Hands

Boyertown Library Basket Raffle

Do you know about the basket raffle, games and baked goods at the Boyertown Community Library on October 10 and 11? All proceeds help fund the library. St. Luke is participating this year thanks to Mike Ferraro's Thrivent grant. Cindy and John Bealer created a basket with tools. Due to her ability to find super bargains, Celeste Ball was able to fill two baskets with craft items for children. Next, Donna Biehl found beautiful treasures to complete an autumn basket. Finally, Mike and Pam Ferraro filled a snack basket with pretzels, chips, cookies and candy. Bonnie Kuser added her creative touches to the baskets. The new St. Luke postcard designed by the Evangelism Committee will be included in each basket.



"Anyone who thinks fallen leaves are dead has never watched them dancing on a windy day."
-Shira Tamir

Community Clothing Rack



Our CCR volunteers received thanks and praise from the social worker at Boyertown Area School District. We received an emergency request for two local families. Sandi Quicksell and Linda Fronheiser each took a family list and filled bags with needed clothing. The social worker picked up the bags and delivered them to the families. She was thankful this was done so quickly.

The amazing volunteers also donated items Multi Service and Opportunity House. Baby items went to an agency in Pottstown. Professional clothing again went to PA Workwear. If you want information on how to volunteer talk to Sandi, Linda or Connie Hukari.

Calling All Knitters!

Yes, we still need you!

Shriner's Hospital and a local family shelter are in need of cozy hats—newborn sizes, children's hats of all kinds, and even adult styles. If you'd like to help, please visit the small room near the kitchen to find yarn and supplies. Every stitch brings warmth and comfort to someone in need!



Church One Liners

Some people are kind, and polite until you sit in their pew.
When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.
Peace starts with a smile.
If God is your Co-pilot, swap seats!

October Birthdays

October 1	Dennis Girton
	Vickie Gordon
October 3	Quinn Ingram
October 4	Donna Conrad
October 6	Shawn Burns
October 7	Dennis O'Connell
October 8	Donald Smoyer III
October 10	Avery Ingram
October 11	Natalee Shankweiler
October 14	Ron Ball
	David Girton
	Azlyn Ramus
	Melanie Wenger
October 16	Sandra Quicksell
October 17	Kevin Girton
October 20	Larry Hoffa
	Sophia Roeder
October 21	Tim Kenna
October 22	Clayton Ingram
October 23	Sandra Reifsnyder
	Tom Undercuffler
October 24	Gary Fronheiser
October 25	Pam Ferraro
October 26	Ryan Rhoads
October 28	Sophia Guss
	Lee Moyer
	Avery Pullium
October 29	Erika Henson

Sponsors Needed

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.



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.'

Fall Feast & Fun Sunday

Save the Date! Join us on **Sunday, October 5 at 9:30 AM** for a joyful **Fall Feast & Fun Sunday** at the St. Luke Pavilion (weather permitting).

We'll begin with worship, followed by a festive **potluck meal**—St. Luke will provide the chicken, and we invite you to bring a covered dish to share.

Enjoy an afternoon of **bingo, guessing games, and good fellowship** as we celebrate the season together. We're also delighted to welcome the **residents of St. Knolls** to join in the festivities!

Ways to Give Monetary Donations to St. Luke

You can donate or give an offering 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.



St. Luke Calendar

Oct. 1	CCR Donations 1:00-4:00 pm
Oct. 2	Girl Scouts 6:30 pm
Oct. 3	AA 8:30 pm
Oct. 5	17th Sun. after Pentecost 9:30 am
Oct. 7	Worship & Music 3:00 pm Scouts 7:00 pm
Oct. 8	CCR Shopping 1:00-4:00 pm
Oct. 9	CCR Shopping 6:00-8:00 pm Council Meeting 6:45 pm
Oct. 10	AA 8:30 pm
Oct. 12	18th Sun. after Pentecost 9:30 am
Oct. 14	Scouts 7:00 pm
Oct. 15	CCR Shopping 1:00-4:00 pm
Oct. 16	Girl Scouts 6:30 pm
Oct. 17	AA 8:30 pm
Oct. 19	19th Sun. after Pentecost 9:30 am
Oct. 21	Scouts 7:00 pm
Oct. 22	CCR Shopping 1:00-4:00 pm
Oct. 24	AA 8:30 pm
Oct. 26	Reformation Sunday 9:30 am
Oct. 27	Wedding 11:00 pm
Oct. 28	Scouts 7:00 pm
Oct. 29	CCR Closed
Oct. 31	AA 8:30 pm

Wedding Anniversaries



October 1	Michael & Emily Gregory
October 7	Tim & Sharee Kenna
October 8	Don & Bonnie Ritter
October 9	Donna & Richard Steffie
October 22	Andrew & Kaitlin Casas
October 23	Randy & Donna Reifsnyder

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



A trip down Memory Lane – to the Bells of St. Luke

It's not unusual for me to go to the St. Luke Pavilion occasionally, and sit and look at the cement pieces, leading out of the pavilion towards Wilson Ave. Those steps were traveled often when members of the J. Russell Sr., and Helen (Weikel) Geiger family would walk from the garage and/or chicken house out towards the house which sat along Wilson Avenue. However, there were numerous times when visiting Gram and Pap-pap we were awakened by Pap-pap on a Sunday morning, hearing him say, "C'mon... get up...time to go tell the neighbors it's time to get up, and get to church." So...we would walk across Wilson Ave., into the "old" St. Luke building, go up into the balcony, and into the belfry, where we would take turns ringing the big old bell that was in there.

The grandchildren have memories of that...as well as how important it is to invite people to go to church, no matter where they went. As for Gram and Pap-pap, many times they went to St. Luke, but often, they went to the church where they were members, Trinity UCC in Pottstown. Many of the grandchildren were baptized there! Gram made communion bread for both congregations, and many never knew which church they were members at. The bell left many of us with wonderful memories.

When the Geiger Family sold the house and property to St. Luke, they saved the profits, and after Pap-pap and Gram died, the family used those profits and purchased a Schulmerich Magne Bell 2 Carillon.

Meanwhile, handbells made their debut at St. Luke. A woman, though not a member of

St. Luke, purchased the first two octaves of Schulmerich Handbells for St. Luke, in honor of her boyfriend.

The handbells and carillon were used often and joyfully!! A third octave of handbells was purchased with funds given in memory of Harry Tim (father of Valerie Schlegel), after he passed in 2002. Something new, choir chimes, were purchased with funds given in memory of Marie Tim (Valerie's mother) when she passed in 2006.

The first director of the Handbell Choir was the late Mrs. Laura Boughter. When the Boughter family left St. Luke to go to St. Timothy's, Aston, Valerie Schlegel became the director, and continues to this day.

The Magne Bell 2 Carillon worked well....but, over time, since it's purchase in the late 70's, until the early 2000s, it started showing signs of it's age. The tapes, which supplied the music, could no longer be purchased. Service calls were rarely available, and the carillon itself was no longer being produced.

When Roy and Marie Geiger passed (2022 and 2024 respectively), monies were contributed in their memories to the Memorial Fund for the purchase of getting a new carillon for St. Luke. Also, when long time St. Luke member, the late Betty Shenk passed (2023), monies were contributed in her memory to the Memorial Fund. It soon became time for the handbells to be refurbished. Monies given in Betty's memory were used for refurbishment of the handbells, with the remaining funds from her account, along with money contributed from friends, family, and relatives in memory of Roy and

Marie Geiger, to purchase a new Schulmerich, g5 Classic Carillon Series 1. The carillon arrived at St. Luke on July 16, 2025, and the handbells went to Sellersville to be refurbished in August of 2025.

Schulmerich Carillons is now a division of the Verdin Company, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

To think that both the carillon and handbells originally came from those who were not members is amazing. To this day, St. Luke is blessed with many who support wonderful ministries of St. Luke Lutheran Church. The next time you go into the pavilion at St. Luke....look forward, to Wilson Avenue....and the "old" St. Luke Building....the trip "down Memory Lane" will lead you to "The Bells of St. Luke."

With many memories, and many thanks to God, from whom all blessings flow.

Kathy (Geiger) Billger –

Thanks to Rev. Dr. Steven D. Boughter, Mrs. Bertha (Geiger) Rutter, and Valerie (Tim) Schlegel for their help with "tracking down" information for this story.



Upcoming Events

October 19, 2025 - Celebration of Marsha's ministry as Office Admin. Please join us after worship to thank Marsha for all the blessing she brought to St. Luke.

October 26, 2025 - Please plan on joining us for worship at 9:30. We're thrilled to have one of our former pastors, The Rev. Dr. Steven D. Boughter, lead us in worship. Pastor Steve was our pastor from 1970-1984. After serving St. Luke, he and his family went to St. Timothy's Lutheran Church in Aston, PA. Pastor Steve is now retired, and "can't wait" to lead us in worship on Oct. 26!!

November 2, 2025 - This is All Saints Day. It's appropriate to bless our refurbished handbells and new carillon on this special day, with the money for both of these projects came from Memorial Funds and contributions from family and friends given in memory of Betty Shenk and Roy and Marie Geiger. A blessing will be held during the service. The handbells or choir chimes will play during the service, and the carillon will play three short numbers following the postlude. A time of fellowship will follow in Memorial Hall, where more music from the carillon will be played. Join us!! (Please see the article - "A Trip Down Memory Lane to the Bells of St. Luke" elsewhere in this newsletter!)

November 22, 2025 - This is the date of this year's Craft Show! It will run from 9:00-2:00, p.m. This day is always a day of fun, friends, food, and fellowship....in preparation, think of if you can donate some baked goods, homemade soup, baskets for the basket raffle...or some of your time during this busy day!!



**St. Luke Evangelical
Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes**
Date: August 14, 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 Reifsnnyder, Donna Biehl, Mike Ferraro, SAM Bobbie Hoffman, Scott Moyer, Tom Undercuffler, Leslie Romasco, John Bealer, Joe Vendetti, Bonnie Kuser and Dave Girton

Excused: Pete Huber and Vince Harris

Adoption of Current Agenda

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

Minutes of the Previous Meeting of June 12, 2025, were approved with a motion by Tom Undercuffler and second by Donna Biehl. The motion passed.

Devotions were by Leslie Romasco.

Sharing was held.

Correspondence: None.

❖ **Unfinished/Old Business**

- **Stewardship** – Did not meet in July or August.
- **Rental Agreement** – Completed.
- **Updating the Church directory** – Per Leslie will go to print late August.
- **Administrative Assistant Search Team** – Tried to post on Indeed and were rejected. Posted to other websites.
- ❖ **Pastor's Report** – Back to school blessing on 8/24. Last Sunday in September is anniversary of the men's breakfast, there will be a blessing of those involved and refreshments to follow.

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

- Dave Girton made a motion to accept the report and Tom Undercuffler made a second. The motion passed.
- Committees**

❖ **Standing Committees**

- **Worship & Music** – See report
- **Stewardship**
- **Finance**

- **Evangelism** – The Little Library is complete and on the map. School supplies collection is going well. October 22 Boscov's Friends helping friends we will sell tickets.
- **Social Ministry** – See Report
- **Property Committee**
- **Endowment**
- **Youth Group**
- **Christian Ed**
- **Parish Life** – Meeting 8/17 after church
- **Mutual Ministry**
- **Audit**

❖ **Organizations**

- **Clothing Rack**
- **Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts**
- **Community Connections/St Luke Knolls**

New Business –

- **Comcast telephone and Internet proposal** – Mike presented a new proposal from Comcast for telephone and internet service. Tom Undercuffler made a motion to accept all agreed.
 - **Switching property insurance from GuideOne to Brotherhood Mutual** – Finance made a proposal to switch insurance to Brotherhood Mutual from \$8100 to \$6800. Motion was accepted.
 - **Estimates to install mini split air conditioner in CCR room** – Tom Undercuffler got 3 quotes and made a motion to go with the lowest from Art Smith. Motion accepted. Finance will review the numbers after CCR decides how much they will contribute Leslie Romasco made a motion to accept and Tom Undercuffler second.
- Adjournment**
- ❖ Bonnie Kuser moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm. Donna Biehl seconded the motion and the motion passed.
 - ❖ Leslie Romasco concluded with a prayer.
 - ❖ Our next meeting is Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 6:45 pm.
 - ❖ SAM Bobbie Hoffman will lead devotions at the next meeting.
 - ❖ Vince Harris will provide refreshments.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Reifsnnyder
Secretary of Church Council



September 23, 2025

Dear Friends,

I have resigned the position of Director of Music of St Luke, effective Dec 31, 2025. I have postponed this difficult decision for some time, but this is the right time for my wife Barbara and me.

My music ministry started in 1972 at my home congregation, St. Matthew's Lutheran in Schuylkill Haven when I was a freshman at Kutztown State College. I have also served Lutheran congregations in Philadelphia (Epiphany), Sassamansville (St. Paul), Pottstown (St. James), and of course, here in Gilbertsville, St. Luke – twice! There were many occasions to play on Sunday mornings as an interim or substitute musician, including many Sundays here at St. Luke as well. I have worked with many wonderful musicians, singers, pastors, and church members over the years. I wish I could name them all!

Here at St. Luke, you have supported and shared your time and talent in music ministry with me (and with all of its musicians) over the years. Thank you!

Hopefully, in the years ahead, I will be able to substitute at the organ or piano as time allows. There is no doubt that St. Luke will grow and flourish as a Gospel-centered community with God's blessing. Let me end with the same words we used at the end of choir practices here at St Luke:

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. Thanks be to God!

God bless you all,

Lincoln Noecker



September Attendance	
September 7	45
September 14	44
September 21	45
September 28	57
2025 Yearly Average	47.7
2024 Yearly Average	50.8

Worship Leader Schedule					
Date	Worship Leader	Lector	Ushers	Audio Visual	Office Volunteer
Oct. 5	Min. Bobbie Hoffman	Leslie Romasco	Larry Billger Terry Conrad	Mike Ferraro	Cindy Bealer (Oct. 2)
Oct. 12	Min. Bobbie Hoffman	Kathy Billger	Gary Fronheiser Ron Hukari	Ron Hukari	Pat Hallman (Oct. 9)
Oct. 19	Min. Bobbie Hoffman	Pat Hallman	Dave Girton Pete Huber	Ron Ball	Donna Biehl (Oct. 16)
Oct. 26	Rev. Steven Boughter	Emily Geiger	Larry Billger Terry Conrad	Mike Ferraro	Cindy Bealer (Oct. 23)
Sacristan for October - Val Schlegel					

Hello, October! I'm just here for the treats, not the tricks - let's be clear.

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