

# cross connection

St. Luke is a worshipping community in which we:

✠ Love God and each other. ✠ Welcome all. ✠ Equip people to serve in Christ's name.

## December 2021



STAMP

LABEL

**ST. LUKE**  
Evangelical Lutheran Church  
2695 Luther Drive  
Chambersburg, PA 17202



# cross connection

## *A Season of Hope and Light*

December 2021

### Season of Advent

This year, in partnership with Lutheran World Relief, each of the four weeks of Advent will focus on the theme of hope. Not only will we consider how we prepare for Christmas, we will also be challenged to see how our faith is called to be active in love. Each week, resources will be available through our website and various social media platforms.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

#### ADVENT 1

*Sunday, November 28, 2021*

Luke 21:25-36 | Be Alert

**Waiting in Hope:** Recovering from Hurricanes Eta and Iota

#### ADVENT 2

*Sunday, December 5, 2021*

Luke 1:68-79 | The Tender Mercy of God

**Singing in Hope:** COVID Relief in Nepal

#### ADVENT 3

*Sunday, December 12, 2021*

Luke 3: 7-18 | Whoever Has, Must Share

**Sharing in Hope:**

How cooking in hope helps refugees in Lebanon

#### ADVENT 4

*Sunday, December 19, 2021*

Luke 1:39-55 | The Magnificat

**Running to Hope:** A Mother's Song in Uganda

### Hanging of the Greens

**A Parish Christmas Decorating Event**

*Sunday, December 19, 2021 following the 10:00 a.m. Service*

Everyone is invited to stay a bit for a blessing of the hanging of the greens and to lend a hand in decorating the church for Christmas. Come and enjoy the fellowship and stay for the refreshments! No experience necessary. All are welcome!

### Longest Night: Blue Christmas Evening Prayer

**Conococheague Mission Cooperative**

*Tuesday, December 21, 2021 @ 7:00 p.m.*

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church  
44 East Main Street, Fayetteville, PA

As an active participant in the Conococheague Mission Cooperative, we are encouraged to consider attending this service. While Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels hopeful or like celebrating. Grief, illness, aging, depression, loneliness, unemployment, and loss are magnified. Even those who are not struggling with losses may feel the stress of preparations and expectations around Christmas time. A Longest Night/Blue Christmas service may provide a time and place of solace during the often frenetic days surrounding the celebration of Christmas. We come together seeking healing and room to share grief, sadness, loneliness, or confusion when these emotions often feel out of place during the holidays.

In the Northern Hemisphere, December 21 is the longest night, the winter solstice. It marks the shortest day of the year, the official start of winter. Tradition says that nature and all her creatures stop and hold their breath to see if the sun will turn back from its wanderings, if the days will lengthen and the earth will once again feel the sun's warmth. On this darkest day of the year, we come with our honest yearnings seeking the return of light and hope.



### The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve

*Friday, December 24, 2021*

7:00 p.m.

Prelude music to begin at 6:30 PM

### First Sunday of Christmas

*Sunday, December 26, 2021*

10:00 a.m.

Service of Lessons and Carols

### Epiphany Vespers

**Epiphany of our Lord**

*Thursday, January 6, 2022*

7:00 p.m.

Following this service, stick around for fellowship and lend a hand to undecorate the church from the Christmas Season.

## WORSHIP

### SUNDAYS AND SPECIAL DAYS

#### **December 5: 2nd Sunday in Advent**

We prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the "salvation of God."

#### **December 12: 3rd Sunday in Advent**

The coming of one "more powerful" than John, even with a winnowing fork in hand, is good news—and cause for exultation—for us who are being saved.

#### **December 19: 4th Sunday in Advent**

It is the kind of tension in which the church always lives as when in holy communion—with high delight—"we proclaim the Lord's death."

#### **December 24: Christmas Eve**

Filled with the light that shines in our lives, we go forth to share the light of Christ with the whole world.

#### **December 25: Christmas Day (no worship service)**

Emboldened by the good news of Christ's birth, along with the shepherds, Mary and Joseph, and all witnesses to the light of Christ, we declare to the world that we have indeed seen and been transformed by the arrival of "the salvation of our God." O come, let us adore!

#### **December 26: 1st Sunday of Christmas**

As the festival continues, "let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts."

### SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

- 10 a.m. every Sunday
- In-person and online

### WEDNESDAY HEALING SERVICES

We have a weekly service of Prayer, Healing, and Holy Communion every Wednesday at 11 a.m. This simple service is a great way to connect with a smaller group of people in a supportive environment. In-person Wednesday Prayer services do not require advance reservation.

### WEDNESDAY PRAYER SERVICE

Prayer & Share via Zoom is on pause until the new year. Please check weekly announcements for updates about this service re-starting.

*connect:* 2695 Luther Drive, Chambersburg, PA 17202 | 717-261-1213 | [office@stlukechambersburg.org](mailto:office@stlukechambersburg.org)

## SUPPORT

### PARISH RECORDS

#### **November 20, Memorial Service**

MaryAnn Gleockner (date of death, October 18)

#### **November 21, Wedding**

Ellen Elise Kroepil and Ryan Michael Coccagna

### WORSHIP SUPPORT 2022

We are in great need of Volunteers for the upcoming year, in all areas. Please take a moment at the church to fill out a form or call the office and Christine will fill it out for you.

**"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."** -Elizabeth Andrew

Prayer

Confidential prayer requests can be made online:  
[StLukeChambersburg.org/connect](http://StLukeChambersburg.org/connect)



### CARD SHOWERS

If you'd like to request a special card shower for a special someone, please reach out to the office at St. Luke!

# cross connection calendar

December 2021



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 <b>Healing Service</b> AA	2 <b>Power Packing / Fellowship</b> AI Anon <b>Choir Rehearsals</b>	3 <u>Music Therapy</u>	4
5 <b>Second Sunday of Advent</b> <b>Sunday Service w/Holy Communion</b> Faith Formation Kids Christmas Party	6	7 <b>Book Group</b> <u>Micah 6 Social Action Group</u>	8 <b>Healing Service</b> AA	9 <b>Power Packing / Fellowship</b> AI Anon <b>Choir Rehearsals</b>	10 <u>Music Therapy</u>	11 <b>St. Seraphim</b>
12 <b>Third Sunday of Advent</b> <b>Sunday Service w/Holy Communion</b> Faith Formation	13 <u>Fellowship Committee</u> <u>Conococheague Audubon Society</u>	14 <b>Book Group</b> <u>Property Committee</u>	15 <u>Grief: Finding Meaning</u> <b>Healing Service</b> AA	16 <b>Power Packing / Fellowship</b> AI Anon <b>Choir Rehearsals</b>	17 <u>Music Therapy</u>	18
19 <b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b> <b>Sunday Service w/Holy Communion</b> Faith Formation Hanging of the Greens / Fellowship	20 <u>Finance Committee</u>	21 <b>Book Group</b> <u>Micah 6 Social Action Group</u> <b>Blue Christmas @ St. Paul in Fayetteville</b>	22 <b>Healing Service</b> AA	23 <u>AI Anon</u> <b>Choir Rehearsals</b>	24 <u>Music Therapy</u> <b>Christmas Eve Service</b>	25
26 <b>First Sunday of Christmas</b> <b>Sunday Service w/Holy Communion</b> Faith Formation	27 <u>Church Council</u>	28 <b>Book Group</b>	29 <b>Healing Service</b> AA	30 <u>AI Anon</u> <b>Choir Rehearsals</b>	31 <u>Music Therapy</u>	

[Check our website at StLukeChambersburg.org](http://StLukeChambersburg.org) for details for each of the calendar items!

**Special Day, Holiday = bold text**

**Outreach Opportunities = purple text**

**Worship Services / Fellowship Opportunities = red text**

**Church Meeting = italicized underlined text**

**Education Opportunities = green text**

**Support / Community Group = gray underlined text**

# *cross connection*

## CONGREGATION, COUNCIL, COMMITTEES

### COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS OCTOBER 2021

- August giving up 1.43% over 2020
- September giving up 2.32% over 2020
- Nominating Committee will be appointed soon
- Strategic Planning—the Congregational Information Session was held on Sunday, October 17
- Communications Team met October 20 - A Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities Threats (SWOT) analysis was conducted
- A new refrigerator to be purchased for approximately \$1,000
- Outreach committee did 69 Power Packs in October and will do them again in December
- St. Seraphim Center (Soup Kitchen) December 11 (could use more volunteers)
- Social Ministry Pentecost Projects will continue through November
- Social Ministry Afghan Refugee Relocation Project

### SOCIAL MINISTRY INITIATIVE

Saving those alkaline batteries, rechargeable batteries, hearing aid batteries, and others? Wondering what to do with them? Want to help lessen the way we pollute our earth?

Keep some of those harmful chemicals hiding in batteries from going into landfills. January at St. Luke is the time and place to get rid of those household batteries. Containers for batteries will be in the far hallway starting in January. We'll be partnering with local businesses to recycle the batteries you donate. Thanks for the part you will be doing in helping preserve our earth.

# EDUCATION

## YOUTH

### TEEN ACTIVITY FOR ADVENT

All those in Grades 6-12, keep your eye out for a letter in the mail! There may be a monetary surprise in there for you to help you enjoy the holiday and complete the 'assignment' in the envelope!

### KIRCHENWALD WINTER YOUTH RETREAT

**January 7—9, 2022** (registration due by December 15)  
*For youth in grades 3—9.*

Broom hockey on a frozen pond, sledding, snow soccer, creative Bible studies and worship experiences - all part of the weekend retreat at Kirchenwald. Contact Shelly if you're interested.

SHELLY DAVIES

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

[diredu@stlukechambersburg.org](mailto:diredu@stlukechambersburg.org)

717-372-9579

### COLLEGE EXAM TIME!

All our students attending college are getting ready for exam time. Make sure you say an extra prayer for them as they wrap up the semester, study and take their finals. Students taking college classes and exams this December are Lorpu Yanquoi, Stephen Pettyjohn, Scott Pettyjohn, Sam Spiese, Jake Corwell, and Joe Corwell. Each of our students will be receiving a care package of encouragement in the form of words and snacks. Snacks are always a good encouragement!

### CHRISTMAS PARTY

Calling all families! That's all of you! We're having a **Kids Christmas Party** with fun activities and pizza for dinner! Bring your children or your grandchildren and join us for an evening of fun. Sunday, December 5 from 4:00—6:00pm. Sign up on the Bulletin Board or by emailing Shelly.



connect:



@StLukeChburg



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

# OUTREACH

### CHRISTMAS CAROLING @ LUTHER

#### RIDGE

Join us to bless our local community with singing. We will go around the cottages of Luther Ridge, door to door, and sing a few of our favorite carols. Dress festive (and warm) and meet at the church on Friday, December 17 at 6:00 p.m. Stay afterwards and join us in the Fellowship Hall for hot cocoa and cookies!



### OVERCOMER, THE MOVIE

Did you enjoy the movie **Overcomer** when it was in theaters two years ago? If you saw it, you loved it! And if you haven't seen it yet, you're gonna love it! Look for more information as we join with St. Paul Lutheran in Fayetteville for a movie night coming in the new year!

### POWERPACKS

We're packing weekend lunches again in December for the elementary students in our area! Join us Thursdays (Dec. 2, 9, and 16) from 10:00—11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall to help sort and stuff bags.

