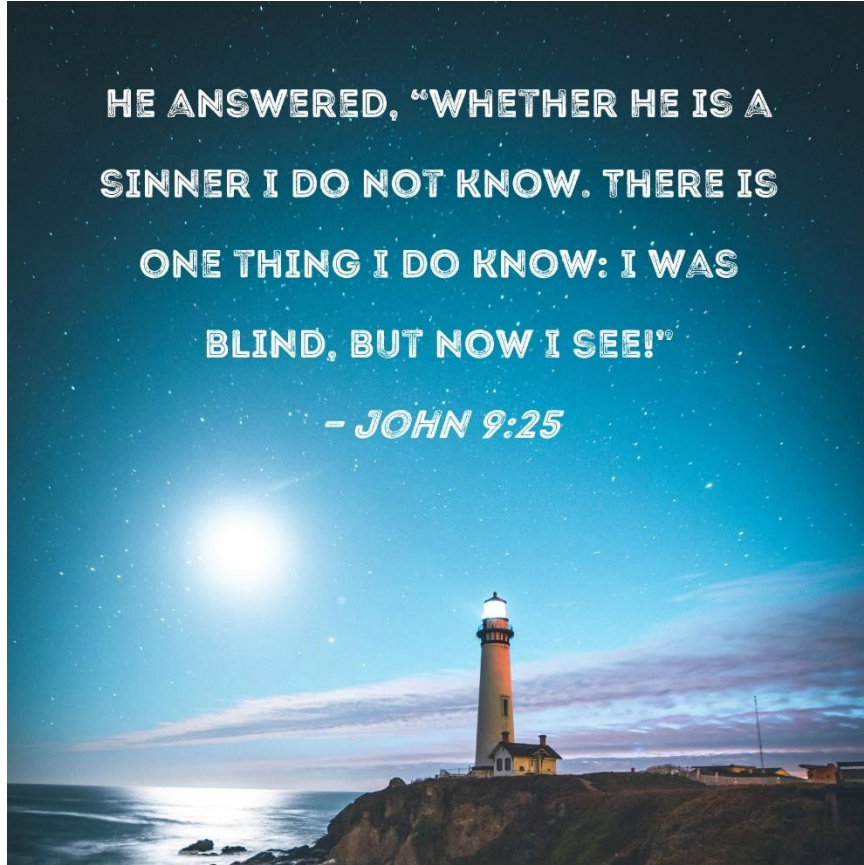


***St. Luke's Episcopal Church***  
***806 13<sup>th</sup> Street***  
***Altoona, PA***

HE ANSWERED, "WHETHER HE IS A  
SINNER I DO NOT KNOW. THERE IS  
ONE THING I DO KNOW: I WAS  
BLIND, BUT NOW I SEE!"

*- JOHN 9:25*



**The Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
**Holy Eucharist: Rite Two**  
**March 15, 2026**  
**1:00 p.m.**

*Welcome to  
St. Luke's Episcopal Church*



We hope that you will feel comfortable worshipping here at St. Luke's. Worship follows the Episcopal tradition using the *Book of Common Prayer 1979*, which can be found in the pew racks, but basically everything you need to know to join in is listed in this bulletin. For hymns we largely use *The Hymnal 1982*, which you also will find in the pew racks. An "S" before a number indicates a piece of service music; that section is found at the beginning of the hymnal. Sometimes we also use

other music: copies of *Wonder, Love, and Praise (WLP)* or other selections will be available in the same place as the bulletins. You may notice a variety of movements by those attending, but these are not required.

All baptized persons are invited to receive Holy Communion in the Episcopal Church. To receive communion, come forward down the center aisle. If you cannot come forward but would like to receive communion, let the greeter know, and it will be brought to you. Receiving communion involves consuming a piece of unleavened bread and taking a sip of wine. Some choose to receive communion by taking only the bread or the wine. You may also come forward instead for a blessing, if that is your preference; simply indicate so by crossing your arms over your chest when you stand before the clergy person.

Whether you have come to St. Luke's for the first time or attend regularly, we hope that you will worship with us again. We would appreciate newcomers signing our guest book and introducing themselves as they are comfortable doing so. Feel free to ask any questions you may have. You also can visit our website ([www.stlukesaltoona.org](http://www.stlukesaltoona.org)) and our Facebook page to find out more about who we are, request prayers, and much more. Here are a few helpful hints about our worship space, especially if you're new:

Access to the closest restroom is by the door to the left of the organ. Go through the door, up the steps or in the elevator, past the hallway, and turn right. This room includes a changing table for infants. For an accessible rest room, instead of going right after the hall, go straight ahead through the double swinging doors, and then turn right. The restroom is down the last hallway to the right.

There are crayons, coloring pages, toys, etc. for the young ones to use at the back of the sanctuary. Please know that we welcome people of all ages to our services.

If you have any prayer requests, there is a list at the back of the sanctuary where you can share those with us. Thanks for joining us today, and we hope to see you again soon!

**Our monthly vestry meeting will follow the service and  
coffee hour today. All are welcome to attend!**

# Order of Worship

## Holy Eucharist, Rite II

**Prelude**

*Nearer, Still Nearer*

arr. Lani Smith

*The People rise in body or spirit for the Opening Hymn.*

**Opening Hymn**

*O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

**1982 Hymnal 493**

*Celebrant:* Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins;

*People:* **His mercy endures for ever.**

*The People kneel in body or spirit for the Decalogue.*

**BCP 350**

*Celebrant:* Hear the commandments of God to his people:  
I am the Lord your God who brought you out of bondage.  
You shall have no other gods but me.

*People:* **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

*Celebrant:* You shall not make for yourself any idol.

*People:* **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

*Celebrant:* You shall not invoke with malice the Name of the Lord your God.

*People:* **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

*Celebrant:* Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy.

*People:* **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

*Celebrant:* Honor your father and your mother.

*People:* **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

*Celebrant:* You shall not commit murder.

*People:* **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

*Celebrant:* You shall not commit adultery.

*People:* **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

*Celebrant:* You shall not steal.

*People:* **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

*Celebrant:* You shall not be a false witness.

*People:* **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

*Celebrant:* You shall not covet anything that belongs to your neighbor.

*People:* **Amen. Lord have mercy.**

*Celebrant:* If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*The People kneel in body or spirit for the Confession.*

**BCP 352**

*Celebrant and People:*

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

### **The Absolution**

*Celebrant:* Almighty God have mercy on you, ✠ forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

### **Kyrie**

**1982 Hymnal S-86**

### **The Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant:* Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The People are seated.*

### **The Old Testament**

**1 Samuel 16:1-13**

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.” But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

*Lector:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 23**

*Dominus regit me*

**BCP 612-613**

**<sup>1</sup> The Lord is my shepherd; \***

**I shall not be in want.**

**<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures \*  
and leads me beside still waters.**

**<sup>3</sup> He revives my soul \***

**and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.**

**<sup>4</sup> Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; \*  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

**<sup>5</sup> You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; \*  
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.**

**<sup>6</sup> Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, \*  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

**The Epistle**

**Ephesians 5:8-14**

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

*Lector:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

*The People rise in body or spirit for the Sequence Hymn and the Gospel.*

**Sequence Hymn**

*Heal Me, Hands of Jesus*

**WLP 773**

**The Gospel**

**John 9:1-41**

*Celebrant:* ✠The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

*People:* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.” The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled

him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him.

Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

*Celebrant:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Homily**

The Rev. Eileen Weglarz

**The Nicene Creed**

**BCP 358**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the ☩ resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

**Prayers of the People (Form I)**

**BCP 383-385**

*The Leader and People pray responsively.*

*Leader:* With all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord, saying "Lord, have mercy." For the peace from above, for the loving-kindness of God, and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Leader:* For the peace of the world, for the welfare of the Holy Church of God, and for the unity of all peoples, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Leader:* For our Bishops, and for all the clergy and people, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Leader:* For our President, for the leaders of the nations, and for all in authority, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Leader:* For this city, Altoona, for every city and community, and for those who live in them, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Leader:* For seasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Leader:* For the good earth which God has given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Leader:* For those who travel on land, on water, or in the air, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Leader:* For the aged and infirm, for the widowed and orphans, and for the sick and the suffering, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Leader:* For the poor and the oppressed, for the unemployed and the destitute, for prisoners and captives, and for all who remember and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Leader:* For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, and for all the departed, let us pray to the Lord.

*People:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Leader:* For deliverance from all danger, violence, oppression, and degradation, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Leader:** For the absolution and remission of our sins and offenses, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Leader:** That we may end our lives in faith and hope, without suffering and without reproach, let us pray to the Lord.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Leader:** Defend us, deliver us, and in thy compassion protect us, O Lord, by thy grace.

**People:** Lord, have mercy.

**Leader:** In the communion of St. Luke and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

**People:** To thee, O Lord our God.

*Silence.*

**Celebrant:** Lord, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

**Celebrant:** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

## **Announcements**

*The Holy Eucharist is Christ's eternal banquet, to which all baptized people are invited. If you are a baptized Christian of any tradition, we welcome you to receive communion. At the time of communion, please come forward down the center aisle. The bread will be placed in your outstretched hands; the proper response is "Amen." To receive the wine, move to the person holding the chalice before returning to your seat. If you prefer not to receive communion, you are still invited to come forward for a blessing, crossing arms over your chest as a signal.*



On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

*\*Sanctus bell is rung three times.*

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

*\*Sanctus bell is rung three times.*

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People:*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*Celebrant:*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*\*Sanctus bell is rung three times.*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*Celebrant and People:*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*A period of silence is kept.*

### **Fraction Anthem**

**1982 Hymnal S-161**

### **Invitation to Holy Communion**

*Celebrant:* ✠The Gifts of God for the People of God.

### **Communion Hymn**

*Deck Thyself, My Soul, With Gladness*

**1982 Hymnal 339**

### **Post-communion Prayer**

**BCP 365**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People:*

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Celebrant:* Bow down before the Lord.

*The People kneel in body or spirit.*

Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people who kneel before you; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The People rise in body or spirit for the Recessional Hymn.*

### **Recessional Hymn**

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

**1982 Hymnal 490**

### **Dismissal**

*Celebrant:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

### **Organ Postlude**

*Largo*

Arcangelo Corelli

## WORSHIP LEADERS

*Greeter:* Laura Gottfried-Letsche  
*Celebrant:* The Rev. Eileen Weglarz  
*Organist:* Patricia McConnell  
*Acolyte:* Alice Drus  
*Lector:* Caleb Gwinn  
*Crucifer:* Olin Mittan  
*Altar Guild:* Alice Drus/Woody Pyeatt  
*Videographer:* Woody Pyeatt

The Rt. Rev. Audrey C. Scanlan, *Bishop Diocesan of the Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna*  
The Rt. Rev. Kevin Nichols, *Assistant Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna*

## St. Luke's Episcopal Church

806 Thirteenth Street (at Eighth Avenue), Altoona, PA 16602  
814-942-1372 [www.stlukesaltoona.org](http://www.stlukesaltoona.org) [info@stlukesaltoona.org](mailto:info@stlukesaltoona.org)

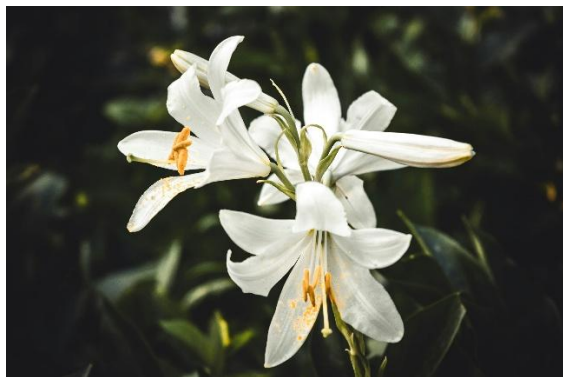


Photo by [Serafima Lazarenko](#) on [Unsplash](#)

*Easter is coming! If you wish to donate towards the Easter flowers, place your contribution and your name or the name(s) of those you wish to honor in an envelope during the Sunday collection. You can also contact the church office at 814-942-1372.*

## Lenten Services and Study

**Lenten Study** - Tuesdays through March 31, from 6:00-8:00 p.m.

**Maundy Thursday** - April 2 at 7:00 p.m.

**Good Friday Stations of the Cross** - April 3 at 12 noon.

*A Prayer for The Kinship and Unity of All Creation in Christ*

God, maker of marvels, you weave the planet and all its creatures together in kinship; your unifying love is revealed in the interdependence of relationships in the complex world that you have made. Save us from the illusion that humankind is separate and alone, and join us in communion with all inhabitants of the universe; through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who topples the dividing walls by the power of your Holy Spirit, and who lives and reigns with you, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Thank you for being a part of our worship today! We are delighted to have you join us during this season of Lent. St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Altoona is a welcoming and affirming place to worship God, proclaiming Jesus Christ and his Gospel of love and caring for ALL of our neighbors. In addition to our Sunday in-person worship time of 1:00 p.m., we continue to offer on Facebook that service and Evening Prayer on Saturday evenings at 5:30 p.m. and to provide Eucharistic visitors, where requested. Wherever you are in your faith journey, we invite you to any and all of these services. Our welcome mat is always out!

With the help of our members and dozens of non-parishioners, we continue to serve Altoona through:

- St. Luke's Food Pantry which presently serves 4 boxes of healthy food, once a month, to more than 200 individuals (next distribution is **March 26**). Volunteers, donations, and prayers are always needed and appreciated!
- Our monthly Community Lunch offers a delicious lunch the second Wednesday of the month. Please join us for our next lunch on **Wednesday, April 8 at noon** at St. James Evangelical Church (just down the street at 1407 8th Avenue),
- Work, Eat, Pray (WEP), our program improves the native plants along the Lower Trail. The next event is **Saturday, April 25 from 9:00 a.m.-noon.**
- Our three Sacred Ground circles' next meeting will be on **Tuesday, April 7, from 6:00-8:00 p.m.** at the Lutheran Home in Hollidaysburg. The program is free and includes dinner. Contact Marilyn Pyeatt if you have questions or want to register.
- Our study of the book by Amy-Jill Levine entitled "Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Week" continues **next Tuesday from 6-8 p.m.** in the sanctuary. A light supper will be provided. New participants are welcome to attend.
- To keep aware of our worship, our learning opportunities, and our service projects, go to our website, [www.stlukesaltoona.org](http://www.stlukesaltoona.org) and/or phone us at (814-942-1372) or email [info@stlukesaltoona.org](mailto:info@stlukesaltoona.org) to ask to receive our weekly Constant Contact newsletter.

**May your life be filled with light, love, and peace!**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In the Cycle of Prayer for the Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna, we pray for the people and ministries of St. Clement's and St. Peter's, Wilkes-Barre; and Bangor, Churchtown. We pray also for our Companion Diocese of Kajo Keji – Wojira Parish. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for The Anglican Church of Kenya.

We give hearty thanks for all bishops, priests, deacons, and lay ministers, especially The Most Rev. Sean Rowe, our Presiding Bishop; The Rt. Rev. Audrey Scanlan, our Bishop Diocesan; The Rt. Rev. Kevin Nichols, our Assistant Bishop; and The Rev. Eileen Weglarz, our celebrant today. We also give thanks for the Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna.

We give thanks for our Shaped by Faith collaboration group, and the faithful work of all those in this parish, especially our vestry. We pray in thanksgiving for the joy of meeting in person for worship and for the technology that allows us to stay connected to those who can't attend in person. We ask for your guidance in this season of Lent.

We give thanks for the sacraments, praying especially for all those celebrating their baptismal, confirmation, ordination, and wedding anniversaries. We also ask for a special blessing on all who are celebrating their birthdays this week. We ask for your blessing and guidance on all those participating in our Lenten Study and in Sacred Ground.

We pray for your guidance and strength for all those involved in the discernment process at St. Luke's-Altoona, St. James-Bedford, Holy Trinity-Hollidaysburg, St. John's-Huntingdon, and Trinity-Tyrone, and for all your servants exploring your mission for them, especially Caleb.

We pray for peace and safety for all those suffering from civil strife and violence throughout the world, especially any who have lost loved ones to violence or been traumatized by it and all those currently threatened, especially the people of Haiti, Iran, Israel, Palestine, the Sudan, and the Ukraine. We ask for your guidance for all world leaders.

We ask you to comfort and heal all those who mourn. We ask that you accept our prayers on behalf of all your servants who have departed this life in faith and fear; may you grant them entrance into the land of light and joy.

We give thanks for the gift of this earth and ask your forgiveness for the ways in which we have abused your creation. Help us find ways to heal our world, aid those harmed by climate change, and work for environmental justice. We pray for all those affected by natural disasters and extreme weather events and give thanks for all those who serve during these types of emergencies and their aftermath.

We give thanks for those upon whom you have sent healing and for the ongoing faithful work of all medical personnel and all caregivers. We ask that you grant them strength, compassion, and wisdom. We pray for those in hospitals or other care facilities and those awaiting or recovering from surgery and other treatments.

We pray for all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, or are in any kind of trouble, especially for:

Sharon; Joanne O'Toole; David and his girlfriend; Nancy; Woody; Josh, Sarah, Ellory, and Lucy; Greg and Cynthia; Henri; Bradley; William; Jeannette; Elizabeth; Charline and Stacy; Kathy and Danny; Ken and Linda; Charlotte; Deb Hockenberry; Sue Benz; Jaye; Helen; Nikki; Betsy and Jack; Jane; the Coney family; Dallas; Jennie; Trista, Nathaniel, and all the Pyeatt family; Tom; Angeline; and Sandy DeLauter.

We pray for Nate Rupp, Natalie Rupp, and all those serving in the military.

We pray for all travelers and all refugees.

We ask for your protection, guidance, and strength for all those at-risk in our communities, all those struggling financially and those losing their jobs, those who are homeless, and those who are hungry. We give thanks that we have had an abundance of food for the clients of our Food Pantry; we pray that they continue to find enough food to stay healthy and homes where they can be safe. We pray also for all those in prisons, especially those unjustly incarcerated or sentenced, all those who suffer the many effects of institutional racism, our diocesan Beloved Community Commission, the Union of Black Episcopalians, the Episcopal Migration Ministries, and all those who work in love to create a world filled with justice, equity, diversity, and inclusivity.

We pray for our country, for healing of our divisions, for rebuilding of trust and common cause, for peace, and for the preservation of our democracy.

The prayer list will be updated for Easter Sunday. If you have new requests or want anyone/anything specific to be reinserted or removed from the list, please contact Marilyn, email the church office at [info@stlukesaltoona.org](mailto:info@stlukesaltoona.org), or use the prayer request list at the back of the sanctuary.