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# ◆ St. Luke's Voice ◆

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St. Luke's Lutheran Church, New Rochelle, N.Y.

June-August 2017

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## St. Luke's Lutheran Church

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

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**SUNDAY SERVICE:**

**HOLY COMMUNION:**

**10:00 A.M.**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL— JUNE**

**10:00 A.M.**

**FELLOWSHIP:**

**11:15 A.M**

## Nothing Fancier

Last month, just as I was putting the finishing touches on an article for this page, “Benefits of Regular Church Attendance”, I received a tragic call from our dear brother in Christ, Bob Maresca, that his thirty-year-old only son Rob had met with a fatal injury and was being kept on life support only for the sake of his organs being donated before support was removed. There was no brain activity.

I left the writing of the article with the promise to conclude it this month.

When I arrived at the hospital in Manhattan Bob and his wife Marla and Rob’s aunt were there. We prayed the final prayers of Commendation of the Dying, Holy Communion was shared and tears shed amid sorrow and grief and shock.

Bob looked up and said, “I will see you in church on Sunday”.

I hesitated and said, “Are you sure Bob? It’s the Sunday School Easter Pageant.”

“That doesn’t matter”, he said.

“Are you sure? There will be all the children and their parents. It may be kind of hard for you to take right now.”

Bob said, “None of that matters. I go to church to see God.”

*I go to church to see God.*

I felt a little ashamed and humbled. Here I’d been writing reasons for all of us to go to church— “benefits” that would have included The Rare Chance for Communal Singing; Breaches Your Echo Chamber and Connects You with People from Different Walks of Life; Contributes to Greater Free-Thinking and Your Diversity of Ideas; Lessens Bitter Partisanship; Ample Opportunities (and More Motivation) for Service and Greater Mental and Physical Health. —all the “benefits”, as if that is what it is about!

It is not the first time I have been, unknowing to them, reminded by our members, “the laity”, of what is important. You have often been my teachers. There was grounding in what Bob said, the essential over the superficial. What benefit is there really in the “benefits” of worship? We simply need one another in the fellowship God’s love in Christ.

Nothing fancier than that.

I thank Bob who gave me permission to tell you this story of what we all need here, you and I, all of us in the journey of joy and sorrow, where we promise each other to meet once a week:

*“I go to church to see God.”*

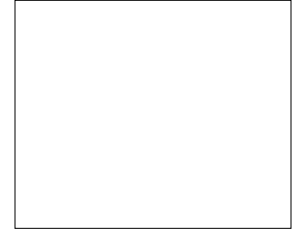
*In Christ,*

*Pastor Bill Damrow*



**FATHER'S DAY is Sunday,  
June 18!  
Bring Dad to church!**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



*St. Luke's  
Voice*

**June—August  
2017**

**Pre-Summer Issue  
St. Luke's Lutheran  
Church (ELCA)**

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