

# St. Luke's Voice

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

April 2020

St. Luke's

Lutheran

Church

95 EASTCHESTER  
ROAD  
NEW ROCHELLE,  
NEW YORK 10801

REV. DR. WILLIAM J.  
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[SLNR.org](http://SLNR.org)

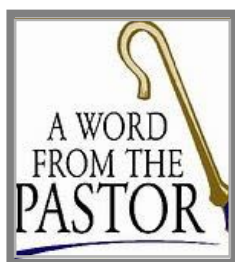
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Newsletter Editor: Pat  
Fredericks.

Renee Taylor: Produc-  
tion.

WHEN WE RETURN:  
**SUNDAY SERVICE:**  
**HOLY COMMUNION:**  
**10:00 A.M.**  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
**10:00 A.M.**  
**FELLOWSHIP:**  
**11:15 A.M.**  
**ADULT EDUCATION:**  
**11:30 A.M.**

## For Such a Time as This



Dear Beloved Sisters and Brothers,

I asked some of our leaders to share with us in this newsletter how they are coping right now, thoughts on ministry and faith and feelings. The most important thing in the world right now is to know we are not alone and that we are in this together physically, emotionally and spiritually

We are very much living in a different world than most of us could have imagined only a month ago. We pray for those effected by the Coronavirus pandemic directly and indirectly. We are thankful when health is good. We've become attuned to how much we need human contact in one form or another. We are amazed by the interconnectedness of our society – healthcare, economy, unemployment, cash flow, security, the poor, and the experience of worship and fellowship.

Most of all, everything is counterintuitive right now. The best way to protect our neighbor is to stay home. The best way to worship is by social media. Holy Week and Easter are best celebrated without fanfare because that is not possible at least in the way we have known.

Yet, we are not the first. The earliest Christians in Rome met in private homes and during the period of persecution I imagine even these were few. There they met one another in ways foreign to us until recently – no large gathering, no church building and living in a kind of social exile, isolated from one another while closer than ever in faith.

One of my favorite Bible stories is in the Book of Esther. Esther must speak to a foreign king for her people. She will likely be killed, and she does not want to do it. But her uncle Moredcai says she must, to save her people even at the cost of her own life “*And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?*”

This is our time to gather closer to Jesus precisely because we cannot gather except virtually.

Who knows whether we have not come for such a time as this? ---

To understand the Maundy Thursday foot washing as a call to love our neighbor in Jesus; this year, to simply reflect on the visual memory within.

To let the darkness of Good Friday night roll into our hearts, closer to the One who is ultimately *alone* on the cross, without hymns or candlelight?

To Easter without trumpets but instead the rising Easter sun, the hope of the Resurrection that springs in these our “stay in place” catacombs?

Of course, we will continue to connect as best we can. I invite you especially with other Lutheran churches to tune in on Facebook and online to our Bishop's worship leadership in Holy Week ([www.mnys.org](http://www.mnys.org)) and elsewhere. Also, our messages, emails, Facebook, and website. I encourage you to keep connected by phone and email. Letters in the mail are still tried and true and low-tech.

I am with you. Through it all, we are together in Christ, battling isolation, fears, loneliness, anxiety, depression and perhaps illness too. We are also met though with a sure and certain hope, a peace that the world cannot give and joy that is everlasting. In all things we are in Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, who bears us up in hope for better days and the Better Day of the Kingdom.

Who knows whether Christ has not come to his people, for such a time as this?

Who knows whether you have not come to this day, for such a time as this?

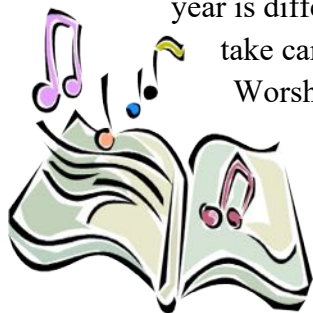
**Pastor Bill Damrow**

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHOIR DIRECTOR

These past two weeks have been very unusual; not being able to worship together, silence, isolation, and a general feeling of life put on pause along with uncertainty- it is challenging for all of us. I already miss our Choirs and Church greatly and cannot wait for this bad-dream-like situation to resolve.

During the Season of Lent our Choirs are usually preparing anthems for Holy Week and Easter. This year is different. We are facing changes that we need to find ways to adapt to in order to take care of each other. But can we still be close while being far? I believe we can.

Worship and Music can go on!



I am planning to start recording the Hymns from home beginning this week. It would be so wonderful if all of you could join and sing along! Also, I am exploring ways to connect with the Sr. Choir via Zoom and see if we could review some of the anthems with help of online tools so that the Choir is ready to sing “Hallelujah” when we are all reunited, and the beautiful music will fill the walls of our beloved St. Luke’s Church, and we will finally be able to Worship together again!

Yours,

Iryna Arbatska

## GREETINGS FROM THE SENIOR CHOIR

We miss you all, and miss singing together and leading Worship. As a little community, when the choir meets at 9 am on a Sunday to warm up and practice the hymns, under the very able leadership of Iryna Arbatska, there is humor, laughter and an appreciation of the joy of music and the gifts of God. Now we are at home, working and playing, we carry the music and the love of the Lord with us in different ways. Like you, we are adapting to daily challenges and finding ways to cope.



For some watching Alvin Ailey dancers on YouTube at 10 am on Sunday brings comfort, or listening to a Bach prelude reminds us of Iryna’s postludes. Turning to scripture, whether it’s an informal Bible study across the phone lines of Psalm 46, or reading Psalm 91, is a solace. For one member wearing his other hat he collects the checks and helps keep St. Luke’s books balanced. Another uses her creative skills to mold glass and produce beautiful things while another does jigsaws and bakes Irish soda bread for the neighbors.

Then there’s those members juggling work whether it’s in the home office or as an essential worker, trying to block out the anxiety and all those questions about what’s next. We all try to focus instead on the present as we quietly support our family members and friends wherever they are. We are thankful for Immanuel, God with us, for the Pastor’s daily words to sustain us, and all the other gifts God gives us to keep us safe and believing during this time. So, sing your favorite hymn and Make a Joyful Noise and know we are singing too, praising the Lord from our hearts and souls and one day soon we will be together again in the St. Luke’s church building.

## GREETINGS FROM THE SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

We hope you are coping in these difficult times. Let us know if you need help with groceries, picking up medications or just a phone call to reconnect. Call the church office and leave a message or email [Elizabeth.lizzieb718@gmail.com](mailto:Elizabeth.lizzieb718@gmail.com). We will see how we can reach out to you.

Our neighbor, HOPE Community Services, really needs our help too. At the time of writing it is the only soup kitchen and food pantry open in New Rochelle. It urgently needs cereal, cans of beans, fruit and vegetables. The food pantry has extended its hours and is now supplying 800 bags, double the “normal” amount each week. Please help if you are able.



The easiest way to help is to go to [hopecommunityservices.org](http://hopecommunityservices.org) website and donate money. If you prefer and are able to drive to their premises you may leave your food donations at the door between 11 am and 1 pm. A map of their food pantry is given on their website. However, no one over the age of 60 is

allowed in the building so the National Guard is helping volunteers to receive food donations and to distribute meals and food bags to the elderly of New Rochelle. For further information call Ellen Berman at 914 834 8189.

St. Luke's Social Ministry, was able to assemble the monthly meals for HOPE in March and supplied its Soup Kitchen which is now doing take-out meals only.

On another note, we are all disappointed that our Migrant and Refugee Sunday had to be postponed and look forward to hearing Amy Robertson speak in the future. Our thanks to everyone who placed a push pin in the Map of the World. What a powerful image that was showing us where our families originated. The notebook detailing information about our families and why they came to the US makes interesting reading too. Please be sure to add your entry when we get together again at St. Luke's.



## WELCOME EASTER! FROM THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE



CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

1869 - 2019

Soon we will all be rejoicing ... He Is Risen Indeed!

Hopefully by Easter we will be worshipping in our beloved Church with our Church Family. We look forward to that day when we are all together again. Praying it will be sooner rather than later. In the meantime, let's reach out to each other, through emails, texts and phone calls. Pastor has done wonderful inspirational and thoughtful daily posts; if you are not receiving them please let us know.

Thank you so much to all that attended our Annual Pancake Supper. Those that cooked, helped set up, clean up and all that shared in the fellowship. We had such fun breaking in our new ovens!

March 8<sup>th</sup> Thrivent hosted the coffee hour. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to William Doherty who will gladly answer any of your questions. He can be reached at WILLIAM O'DOHERTY, ChFC®, FIC, CLTC® Financial Consultant  
*Helping clients reach their financial goals, at every stage in their lives.*  
Phone: 551-249-2859 Email: [william.odoherty@thrivent.com](mailto:william.odoherty@thrivent.com)

Our International Dinner and Hymn Sing, rescheduled for March 14<sup>th</sup>, was sadly canceled. We will try to reschedule again later in the year.



Please mark your calendars for the Spring Sale on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will need all of your help and participation. Additional information will be emailed and published later. Keep your fingers crossed we will be back in business by then as this will be a much needed fundraiser for our church!

Don't forget, our Lutheran Retreat Center, Koinonia, in Highland Falls, may be ready for our family retreat in October. Save the date and keep those prayers coming for October 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

If you would like to join our committee on a regular basis, please let us know.

Gratefully yours, and God Bless you all this Easter Season!

Pat and Dawn

*P.S. Remember, our church is only as strong as its members and we are so lucky and so thankful to have such great friends and members as you. Thank you all for being part of St. Luke's fellowship this year. If anyone would like to join us, whether for an event or to join the committee please let us know... God bless you all*

Pat Damrow email: [PatDamrow@hotmail.com](mailto:PatDamrow@hotmail.com) and Dawn McEvoy email: [Mmcevoy33@aol.com](mailto:Mmcevoy33@aol.com)

*Fellowship events at St Luke's are collaboratively sponsored by the Fellowship committee, St. Luke's Sunday School, the Stewardship committee, the Evangelism committee and the Youth Group. ... This is what Fellowship is all about, and we are always looking for new faces to join us in furthering our fellowship ministry. If you would like to support any of the events or join the committee, please contact us.*



# HAPPY EASTER

## FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH GROUP

### **May this Easter season find you all safe and healthy.**

We are so sorry that our Easter is not looking like a typical one. Who knows, maybe by the time Easter Sunday arrives, April 12<sup>th</sup>, we will not be on PAUSE and we will all be together in our beloved St. Luke's Church. IF that is the case, we will still plan on our Sunday School activities:

Our Annual Easter Bake Sale, April 12<sup>th</sup>, Easter Pageant and Egg Hunt, April 18<sup>th</sup>.

We may have to postpone or reschedule, but one can always hope!

We have sent weekly emails to the Sunday School families with activities the children (and families) can do together. Please share with your kids. As you are having daily at home school time be sure to incorporate Sunday School time. We all need to be reminded that God is always with us and with Jesus all things are possible. We will be continuing sending weekly lessons until we are back together again.



For those on Facebook, there are great activities for the kids to do while staying safe ... I will share those as well. A scavenger hunt in the park, a bear hunt in your neighborhood, putting up rainbows or - for Sunday school - let's do Butterflies for Easter. Write inspirational messages along the side walk, leave a message or a treat for a neighbor; ALL ways to spread God's love during this time.

Please feel free to email me at any time [mmcevoy33@aol.com](mailto:mmcevoy33@aol.com)

Thank you to all that have donated to the Sunday School. Please continue to use your Sunday School envelopes! You can send them in with your weekly church contributions.

Sunday School is every Sunday from 10-11:15 except for school holidays. Children worship with their own liturgy service and then attend age appropriate classes. They have their own lessons and receive their own stewardship envelopes for weekly contributions. The Sunday School is self-supporting thru their own contributions. That includes lessons, books, supplies, materials etc. It is never too early to learn about being good stewards! Please see us for your Child's envelopes. We need your support! If your child would like to join the Junior Choir and/or the Youth Group please see us for more information. As always, check out the bulletin board, ask your child "what they learned today". It takes a village, and in our case, A Congregation is our village. THANK YOU ALL!

Any questions please feel free to contact us.

Yours in Christ,

Dawn McEvoy, Superintendent and High School

Jen Battaglino, 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade

Vicky McEvoy, Shari Taylor, Beg-1<sup>st</sup> grade,

Jacob Kuligowski, Sara Battaglino; Assistants

Karen Fontecchio, Assistant Superintendent;

Traci Daniele, Treasurer



## UPDATE FROM THE ALTAR GUILD

The women of the Altar Guild are greatly missing St. Luke's. The palms for Palm Sunday have been delivered and are sitting in the refrigerator in the kitchen unable to be distributed. Holy Week, the busiest week in the Church calendar and in the life of the Altar Guild, will be quiet this year. Every year on the Saturday morning before Easter the Guild meets at the church and prepares the church for Easter Sunday. We polish the brass and silver and arrange the flowers around the altar, lectern, pulpit, and baptismal font. This year, obviously is much different; we will adjust but it is weird.

As of this writing, the Altar Guild team members and our families are healthy. Renee, Susanne, Pat, Patty and I continue to work; some of us are traveling to work each day and others of us working from home. As retirees, Jennifer and Irene are remaining at home and are keeping themselves busy.

We miss St. Luke's and we miss our routines. We are appreciative of Pastor's daily reflections and for the Bishop's weekly service, as they both help us remained connected to God and to one another.

We look forward to seeing everyone again at St. Luke's, sharing the Peace, and joining in Holy Communion,

Peace,

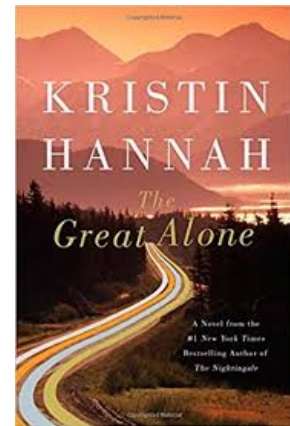
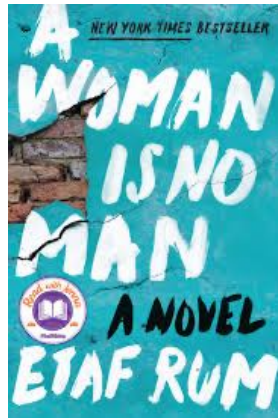
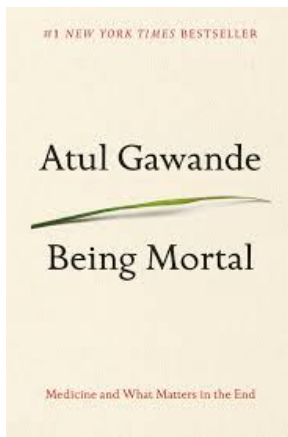
Nancy Sigler



A few pictures  
From last year's  
Palm Sunday,  
Holy Week and  
Easter worship  
Services.



## THE BOOK CLUB CORNER



St. Luke's Book Club has a list of our reading slate from January through June. Although we missed our March 19 meeting, we read a phenomenal novel titled *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins. Study guide questions for discussion were recently sent to all members. Two weeks ago marked our canceled monthly meeting. Our world is now upside down and March 19 feels like many, many weeks ago. Time is also topsy turvy.

We as a church community, our city, our state, our country and our world are being challenged by this virulent pandemic. Worry, fear, stress and anxiety do not make for a good reading environment. It may be very difficult to focus and concentrate in these trying times.

We can cut ourselves lots of slack --- and read what we want to read when we can read. Use our list as a suggested guide.

Pastor Damrow's daily musings / postings have served as a great source of support, inspiration and connection. Keep writing Pastor.

We are listening!

## EVANGELISM AND SOCIAL MEDIA MOMENT

For those of you who new to our congregation and are reading this newsletter and don't know me: my name is Renee Taylor and my family, and I have been members of St. Luke's for 11 yrs. I am a RN Care Coordinator who works at NYP Lawrence Hospital and my husband Bill is a Project Manager for ConEd. As you can imagine -working for a hospital and a utility company during a time of a pandemic is frustrating, challenging, and scary. Our son Sean is working and staying with family in the City. Our daughter Shari who is a HS Junior is home from school with remote learning in place, yearning to be with friends and enjoy all the things she did before "social distancing" became the norm and not the rule.

We are trying to use our time constructively and going back to basics: no takeout-lots of home cooked meals, sewing, reading, games, and baking. Facebook, email, and telephone has been my lifeline to stay in touch with everyone. Just reading many of the Facebook postings especially the daily one from Pastor gives me an emotional lift after a long tough day at the hospital. I also look forward to the Sunday message that Pastor sends out every Sunday and now the Sunday service held by Bishop Egensteiner every Sunday at 10 am on YouTube or Facebook.



"All are welcome in this place" .... those are the words of the hymn I can I hear when I think of our church. Although we can't get together right now as one congregation in our church building our hearts and minds are together as a church family.

## INFORMATION FOR OUR WEBSITE

Just a reminder that I am always looking for new information and photos for our website. If you would like to update any information, please send me content and/or photos and I will take care of the updates ASAP. Thanks!

Stay Well!  
Susanne





## AROUND THE PARISH



**In our Prayers this month** are all those hospitalized, with health concerns, in transition, all those undergoing further tests, treatments, or healing, those who have died in the Lord and the grieving, especially *Lorraine and Walter Helfer*, upon the death of Lorraine's husband and Walter's father, *Walter Helfer* (January 13 in New Hampshire).

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### Birthdays

4/1	Paula Hayes	4/17	Brad Fredericks
4/2	Julianne Kehou	4/21	Robert Doerr
4/4	Claudia Rubicco		Curtis Bengé
	Frank Saavedra	4/22	Cidney Montalvo
4/8	Rachel Kimber		Stephanie Elmer
4/11	Mrs. G. John Gerretsen		Rachel Elmer
4/12	Daniel D. Brisson	4/25	Elizabeth Mitze
	Erik Jantzen	4/27	Margaret Lenz-Nicollais
4/14	Sophia Kehoe	4/28	Rupert Thompson
4/15	Erika Johnson		Sanjay Smith

### Anniversaries

4/4	Zachary & Rosalind Carter
4/8	Traci & Ermenegildo Daniele
4/16	Linda Skillen & Jose Saavedra
4/18	Len & Donna Elmer
4/23	Gloria & Laurence Head
4/29	Jeremy & Rachelle Harris

## **Thank you to the Patrons of St. Luke's Voice – 2020**

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*St. Luke's  
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**APRIL 2020**

**St. Luke's Lutheran  
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