

St. Luke's Voice

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

December 2020—January 2021

St. Luke's

Lutheran

Church

95 EASTCHESTER
ROAD
NEW ROCHELLE,
NEW YORK 10801

REV. DR. WILLIAM J.
DAMROW, PASTOR

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@AOL.COM

CHECK OUR
WEBSITE:
SLNR.org

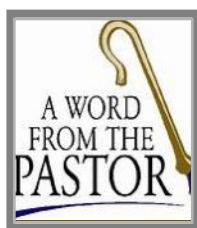
For Sunday
Worship

[Visit us on Facebook!](#)

Newsletter Editor: Pat
Fredericks.

Renee Taylor: Produc-
tion.

We Saw a Ship on Christmas Day



Some years ago Pat and I took our family on a cruise to Nova Scotia. This is still my one and only cruise so far. It was a way to get to know one another better and especially my son's fiancé, Arianne.

Being on a boat (yes, it's a ship) is interesting. Regardless of stops, you spend most of the time on board and at night in close quarters. The day is built around the free-flowing meals. There's lots of entertainment. You're out of your usual routine. And honestly, near the last day coming into port, you are ready to get back to normal. But oh, what a view of sea and sky and the heavens at night when you are aboard!

The one thing expected of the captain of the ship is this: get us where we are going and get us home safe.

We've been on a nine-month cruise so far with this COVID-19 pandemic, haven't we? More time at home and other "close quarters" than ever. Out of our usual routine. "I've watched everything on Netflix!" one member jokingly said. As the distribution of the vaccine promises light at the end of the tunnel, we are so ready to get back to a normal.

But we are not there yet. It is time more than ever to be alert and prepared (the two actions of Advent) these coming months to be safe, for others, as well as ourselves.

The captain's task is to get us where we are going and get us there safe.

None of us is navigating perfectly. All we can do is show up somehow and be faithful.

Sailing into Christmas and January, there will be times of fear and lament. Our joy will be different too. It would be a mistake to replicate the recent past. We can find new ways however to sail these waters. The main thing is to hang tight in these unfamiliar waters. Change plans. Get to the other end safe as we can. It will be worth it. Patience.

As the infant Moses was sent in a small basket "boat" down the river Nile to eventually free and save his people, so the manger of Jesus Christ is a boat sent by God, carrying the child Jesus to save and redeem the whole world.

Our captain has come to get us safely home, to God's kingdom on earth and in heaven. "Come Christians, follow where our captain trod," we've often sung in the hymn "Lift High the Cross".

We are all in unknown waters right now. Let's do our best as the crew to get each other and others safely home. It's what captains do. It's what love does.

When we worship this Christmas Eve online at 8 p.m., please have a candle (or light) to light as we sing "Silent Night, Holy Night" during the Service of worship/Mass. Have bread and wine (or juice) at hand for when we receive Holy Communion remotely. It will be different this one Christmas and it will be memorable. I suspect we may feel more joy than be "merry"; more depth of love from above and together, safely, so we can be "home" soon.

In the silent night of Christ's birth together, God will bring our boat to shore... Oh! The view! The sky! The stars!

Wishing you a "Merry" Christmas and New Year,

Pastor Bill Damrow

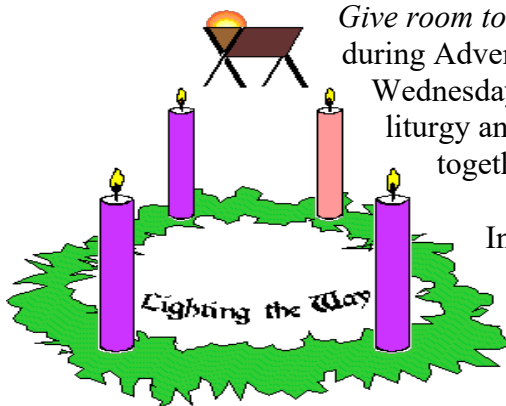


ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP
SCHEDULE
2020

Advent Evening Prayer /Vespers - Wednesdays,
December 9 & 16 7:30 via Zoom

December 24 (Thursday) - Christmas Eve 8:00 p.m. via Zoom

ADVENT VESPERS – MIDWEEK REST AND RENEWAL



Give room to your soul in a quiet and worshipful half hour to *calm down* during Advent, through Evening Prayer (the other name for Vespers), two Wednesday nights in Advent at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. We will chant the liturgy and sing a hymn as well as enjoy a brief time of quiet meditation together.

In these anxious times we need more than ever to come together and rest awhile where we find the true reason for the season. December 9 and 16 at 7:30 p.m. Invitation link will go out earlier in the week.

REOPENING COMMITTEE

The "Re-Opening Committee" (Ed O'Garro, Jeremy Harris, Joy Mitchell, Nancy Sigler and Pastor Damrow) are currently meeting briefly each week to evaluate projected weather conditions and current CoVid regulations ahead of each Sunday indoor church service. Because the windows and door remain open during the service for ventilation, severe weather would cause a pause in the indoor service schedule, as would of course, any closure required by governmental health authorities. In recent weeks, between 23 and 38 people have enjoyed taking part in Sunday's modified indoor service. The Church Council has agreed that the Christmas Eve Service should be zoomed only at the usual 8 p.m. time.

ANNUAL CONGREGATION BUDGET MEETING

December 6, 2020

The Annual Budget meeting will be held on **Sunday, December 6 via Zoom at 12 noon**. All active voting members are welcome to vote at the annual congregational budget meeting which helps our church to enter **2021** with a new budget for active ministry to the community and beyond.

A Nominating Committee will also be elected at this meeting. Please attend. Since the meeting needs to be online this year, we very much need a quorum.



A LOOK
at the
BUDGET

ST. LUKE'S PANDEMIC STRESS SUPPORT GROUP

Our first meeting in October was a very welcome and relaxed time of sharing our personal feelings and experiences of dealing with continuous stress in our lives because of the pandemic and other issues during this tumultuous year. In a time of uncertainty and fear, as well as hope and love, we continue to need care and connection.

Group sharing will be again be facilitated by Pastor Bill and Deacon Nancy Sigler. We need an avenue to express our feelings in safety, confidentiality, and mutual support.

Watch for the **Zoom invite** for the **first Thursday of the month, Thursday, December 3, 2020 from 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

ST. LUKE'S PARTNERS WITH THE ELCA FOR HOPE



St. Luke's has stepped up its effort to respond to HOPE Community Services' increased need for food, coats and toys. In November more than 20 St. Luke's members donated over \$1,900 for HOPE through the ELCA Hunger campaign and qualified for an additional \$500 grant, so HOPE will receive a total of \$2,400. Our special thanks to Robert Brent who applied for the grant and Susanne Kuligowski who set up the website, and all who gave so generously.

"We are truly thankful every day for St. Luke's making HOPE's mission a reality," said Ellen Berman, HOPE's volunteer coordinator.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church
ANNUAL TOY DRIVE for HOPE Community Services
December 6th and Dec 13th 2020



Please help us support HOPE Community Services by donating a toy, or two, to bless a child this Christmas. Please bring your new unwrapped toys to the Narthex before services OR you may use this Amazon link to go directly to HOPE's wish list for easy shopping and delivery without ever leaving your home,
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2DF8Y6BPXSE9D/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex?

OR deliver, via drive thru, St. Luke's parking lot on Dec 13th from 11-12pm

Any Questions please contact Dawn McEvoy at mmcevoy33@aol.com



On Sunday December 13 St. Luke's invites you to drop off coats, hats and gloves in the church parking lot between 11am and noon. If you attend indoor Worship, you may drop off coats in the Narthex coat room.

St. Luke's will also accept unwrapped toys on December 13 for HOPE's Christmas give away. Check out the Amazon link noted in the article above and if you prefer, you can order the toys directly and get them delivered to HOPE. The deadline is December 13, so HOPE can organize and wrap the toys.

Our special thanks to Gail Olsen who purchased so many lovely toys last year after Christmas that will bring smiles to many children this year.

SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE NEWS



Ten large trays of meatball stew, along with four trays of rice were prepared in November for Hope Community Services.

Jennifer Archer recently sent a beautiful note of gratitude to **Denise Tolles** on behalf of the Social Ministry Committee and St. Luke's which is shared with each member who cooked for Hope during the pandemic: **Joan Bast, Bill Rodriguez, Joy Mitchell, Angelika Ridulfo, Elizabeth Brent, Robert Brent, Gloria Head and Larry Head.**

The note reads in part..." Cooking through these most difficult and trying months is a true inspiration. Your faithful and diligent work is a godsend to St. Luke's and our community... ' *Well done, good and faithful servant.* ' "

"During this pandemic, we have not just seen an increase in the need for food but also for tech items, as not every family has the necessary equipment for home schooling. So it was a great opportunity to work together with a telecommunications company that was willing to donate their computer monitors and other office items due to the closing of one of their offices. HOPE gratefully accepted the items and will distribute them to families in need."



One warm coat can
change a life...
Of a child
Of a man
Of a woman

Can you imagine what two can do??

Please join us in helping to keep those in need warm this winter by donating a coat, new or gently used
To HOPE Community Services in New Rochelle.

Please drop off to St Luke's Church any Sunday in November before service in the Narthex
or drive through St. Luke's parking lot on Dec 13th from 11-12pm

Please contact Dawn McEvoy with any questions at mmcevoy33@aol.com

Benito Ceja, Program Coordinator from Hope, sends extra special appreciation to St. Luke's for the coats already donated to Hope, since "they are particularly short of jackets this year."

CHRISTMAS CARDS & MESSAGES

St. Luke's once again partnered with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) to write Christmas cards and send messages of love and hope to those families still in detention centers. This year people supplied their own cards and dropped them off in the Narthex on Sunday mornings or mailed them to the church. By mid-November members and friends had already written 81 cards in both English and Spanish. The deadline was November 29.

Some families came together virtually to write cards and make their own. Adelaide Brent in Minneapolis helped her grandmother in the Bronx write hers in Spanish during a FaceTime session. Melissa McEvoy, who is fluent in Spanish, wrote special messages as the majority of those in detention centers are Spanish speakers. Girl Scouts got involved too under the leadership of Dawn McEvoy.



Our thanks to everyone who wrote cards and reached out to these families to make them feel less isolated and alone as we all celebrate Christmas in a different way this year.

OUR HISTORY WITH HOPE COMMUNITY SERVICES

We were recently asked to describe the history of our relationship with Hope Community Services in order to assist a student at Mamaroneck HS with her Girl Scout Gold Project. Our thanks to our own **Steve O'Rourke** who was able to provide details of our first visit by Carole Traub, then Director; the launch of our food pantry collection, toy and coat drives, and finally our first dinner preparation for Hope which took place in June, 2011.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR
from your Sunday School

We hope you all had a fabulous, blessed Thanksgiving. May your Christmas be joyous and your New Year healthy and Happy! Cheers to 2021!!!

We have continued to email weekly lessons, as well as mailing our Christmas packets to all the children and their families.

Please use the Christmas Envelopes to continue to help support the Sunday School.

We are also co-hosting our annual Coat and Toy Drive for HOPE Community Services. We will have a drive through drop off on Dec. 13th from 11-12pm. PLEASE donate. The need this year is greater than ever.

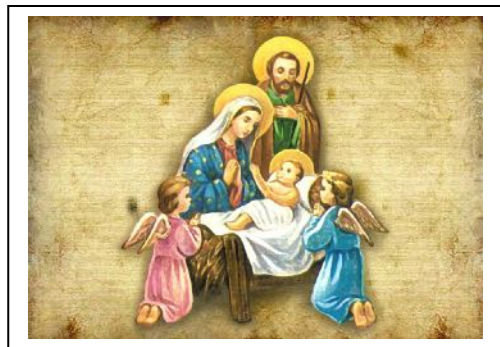
We can't wait to finally be able to see you all in person and we know that day will come. Until then please continue to share the good news with each other. Continue to grow in your Christian faith. Don't forget Sunday School, your spiritual education is just as important as your scholastic one!

Take us with you on your journey!

God Bless you and your families....

Stay safe and stay strong St. Luke's!!!

Dawn, Jen, Vicki, Shari, Jacob, Karen and Traci



SOCIAL MINISTRY INVITES YOU



Social Ministry invites you to join a Morning Prayer group via Zoom. Beginning on Wednesday December 9 a small group will meet virtually to pray for the needs of the world and each other every week. If you'd like to learn more, or sign up, please contact Elizabeth.lizzieb718@gmail.com.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! COUNTERS WANTED!!!

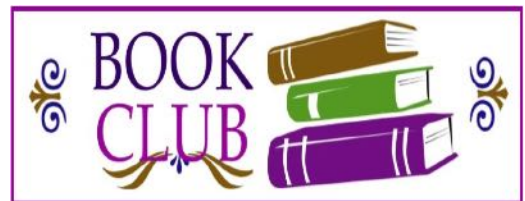
The finance committee is small yet mighty, but needs additional support. Please consider joining us on a Sunday after church services for approximately 1 hour, once per month.

Please contact Traci Daniele at twdaniele@gmail.com for more information or to sign up. Thank you for your consideration and support.

THE BOOK CLUB CORNER

*I am Ana. I was the wife of Jesus ben Joseph of Nazareth.
I called him Beloved and he, laughing, called me Little Thunder.*

Thus begins Sue Monk Kidd's novel, *The Book Of Longings*, set in Palestine and Egypt in the time of Jesus. Kidd's narrative dwells heavily on the figure of Jesus, but the story belongs to Ana. Ana is not only Jesus's wife, but is a woman with a quest --- that of following her longings in pursuit of the largeness inside herself. Ana's struggle to realize her passion and potential, while living in a time, place and culture devised to silence her, is inspiring.



During our November Zoom book club meeting, we discussed rules, customs and various aspects of life two thousand years ago. We also talked about the cultural expectations placed on women today. We explored the relationship between feminism and religious beliefs, and the ways feminism can become a spiritual quest. *The Book of Longings* was an exquisite and unforgettable work of historical fiction.

Our December book is:

Where Do We Go From Here? Chaos or Community by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

We will meet on Thursday, December 17, at 7:00 P.M. via ZOOM.

Our January book is:

Rules of Civility by Amor Towles.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS ...

from your Fellowship Committee

We hope this newsletter continues to find you and your loved ones safe and healthy. We know this has been an extremely difficult time for everyone, especially to stay separated from each other . . . we pray that we will be able to see you soon.

In the meantime we have tried to stay connected through Sunday Services, emails, a virtual coffee hour and through continued service to our community. Please feel free to reach out to us if you need anything . . . we are always here to help.

On October 24th we co-hosted a Food Drive with the Social Ministry and Youth Groups. We delivered 3 trunk loads of food on a Sunday afternoon to HOPE Community Services. They were so grateful. We received a Thrivent Action Grant and the chance for an additional grant if we collected 500 items. We reached our goal! Thank you all for all of your donations.

In December we are Co-Hosting our Annual Toy Drive for HOPE. Please see page 4 of this newsletter for details and watch your emails. Every toy helps to bring Joy to a child.

Merriest of Christmas and the Happiest of New Years to you all!

Stay strong St Luke's...

'Til we meet again...

Pat Damrow and Dawn McEvoy

Mmcevoy33@aol.com

patdamrow@hotmail.com



ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING February 7, 2021



St. Luke's Annual Meeting (minus the budget which is voted on separately in December) will be held **Sunday, February 7, 2020 via Zoom at 12 noon** following Sunday worship. All active voting members are invited and expected to attend. Learn about all we've done together in the incredible year of 2020 as we look forward to a new year! Also, election of new Church Council members and Audit Committee.

CHRISTMAS PLANTS



*If you wish to contribute to the Beautification
of our Sanctuary, please use the form below.*

*If you wish to contribute to the Christmas Poinsettia Fund in memory of or in honor of a
loved one, please complete the form below.*

*Names of donors and loved ones will appear in the Christmas Eve Bulletin.
Cost: \$25.00*

Deadline Date: December 13, 2020

CHRISTMAS PLANTS

In Memory of _____

or In Honor of _____

In Gratitude of _____

From _____

*Please send to: St. Luke's Lutheran Church
95 Eastchester Rd.
New Rochelle, NY 10801*

AROUND THE PARISH

In Our Prayers this month are all those hospitalized, with health concerns, in transition, all those undergoing further tests or treatments or healing, especially Theresa Glatz, Gail Olsen and Kathy Wirak, all those named in our Sunday prayers, those who have died in the Lord and the grieving,

*Our thoughts
and prayers
Are with you*

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

DECEMBER

Birthdays

12/1	Alessia Daniele	12/17	Joan Bast-Rodriguez
12/2	Aimee LoPresti		Heidi Lloyd
	Susan Breen	12/18	Carolyn Zyloney
12/5	Roger Lloyd		Holly O'Neill
12/6	John McLaughlin		Bob Lepple
12/7	Andrew Link	12/20	Lillian Mallya
	Adeline Amato	12/22	Cory Tupper
12/9	Renee Hamilton-Taylor		Evangeline Grace
	Emily Archer	12/24	Michael Tolles
12/11	Lucy Hoffman-Guido	12/25	Linda Pasqua
12/12	Lillian Alvarez	12/27	Gail Olsen
	Lucille Saavedra	12/30	Rebecca Daniele
12/13	Hana Smith	12/31	Rosemarie Doerr
			Peter Conroy

Anniversaries

12/1	Judy & John Amato
	Joy & Michael Mitchell

JANUARY

Birthdays

1/3	Matthew Bissinger	1/14	Matthew Head
	Karen Jantzen		Len Elmer
1/4	Michael O'Neill	1/16	Jackson Tamburro
1/5	Joseph LoPresti	1/17	Henry Bast, Jr.
	Jeniece Oliveras-Triolo	1/19	Matthew Damrow
1/6	Sylvia Leppik	1/23	Kristen Ann Dassler
1/8	Martha Johnson	1/27	James Ross III
1/10	Alan Fontecchio	1/28	Linda O'Meara
1/13	Tanya Thompson		Avery Harris
	Amelia Blake	1/29	Maaseiah Morris
		1/31	Katrina Ungewitter

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH –DECEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>All meetings except Sunday worship are via Zoom</i>		1	2 10a-Clergy Pericope Study	3 7:30p-Pandemic Support Group	4	5
6 Advent II 10a-Service 10a-Lighting of the 2 nd Advent Candle & Blessing of the Nativity Crèche 12p- Annual Budget Mtg.	7	8 7:30p-Church Council Mtg.	9 10a-Clergy Pericope Study 7:30p-Zoom Evening Prayer/Advent Vespers	10	11	12
13 Advent III 10a-Service 10a-Lighting of the 3 rd Advent Candle & Blessing of the Christmas Tree	14	15	16 10a-Clergy Pericope Study 7:30p-Zoom Evening Prayer/Advent Vespers	17 7p-St. Luke's Book Club	18	19
20 Advent IV 10a-Service 10a-Lighting of the 4 th Advent Candle Cooking for HOPE	21 10a-HOPE Food Pickup	22	23 10a-Clergy Pericope Study	24 8p-Christmas Eve Service on Zoom Only	25 Nativity of Our Lord Christmas Day Office Closed	26
27 10a-Service	28	29	30 10a-Clergy Pericope Study	31	Jan. 1 New Year's Day Office Closed	

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

Jennifer Archer

Margaret D' Andrea

Lorraine & Walter Helfer

Bob Maresca

Art Rankis

Aija Sears

Nancy Sigler

William & Madeline Tappert

Ernest & Rosalind Wallace

Lilian Warren

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To become a patron, just make a contribution of \$25.00 send to St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 95 Eastchester Rd., New Rochelle, NY 10801. Please designate the gift toward "Patron of Newsletter".



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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2021

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10801-1209
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