St. Luke's Voice

St. Luke's Lutheran Church, New Rochelle, N.Y. ***December 2021—January 2022***

St. Luke's Lutheran Church

95 Eastchester Road
New Rochelle,
New York 10801

Rev. Dr. William J. Damrow, Pastor

Church: (914) 632-2116

Email: StLuke654@aol.com

CHECK OUR WEBSITE: SLNR.org
Sunday Worship At 10 a.m.

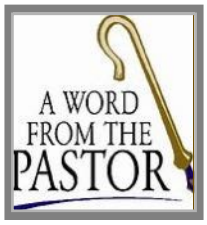
Wednesday Advent Vespers at 7:30 p.m.

Visit us on Facebook!

Newsletter Editor: Pat Fredericks.

Renee Taylor: Production.

A Little Child Shall Lead Them



"And a little child will lead them."

Well, at least Confirmation kids will.

We were discussing the fifth commandment, "Honor your father and your mother." The discussion led to questions. Is it easy to be a parent? A child? What does God expect of parents?

As we talked my mind ran back to the day each of my children were born. Before then, like most young couples, our focus was on our wants and dreams – on further education, self-development, dreams of owning a house someday, career development, social justice, and so on.



Those are the days of focusing on self and one's own future.

But then, I told them, something happened to their parents when they were born. It happens to most parents. I remember driving home at sunrise from the hospital after each child was born and thinking, "now everything is different." Different, because if one wants and is fortunate to have a baby, the child draws us out of ourselves and our self-focused world into the world outside ourselves: to them. It's an amazing thing- there isn't anything the parent will not do to love, protect, support, guide and cherish their children.

It is life changing. We are freed of being immersed in ourselves.

As Christmas comes, "unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." (Isaiah 9:6). "For unto you is born this day a savior who is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11)

Might we not see that the Christ child, Jesus, is born to us, t***o you***? Let Him draw us out of ourselves, out of self-isolation and out to Him and our brothers and sisters in the world. Christmas is that same call to love and cherish the Lord Jesus who calls us forth to honor and love Him, even as Christ protects, supports and guides us through His Holy Spirit.

Love from above bids us, whatever our earthly age, to step forth into an unknown but amazing future. Van Gogh's painting, "First Steps," depicts a milestone moment for many parents and children. Father and daughter face each other with outstretched arms as the young child totters from her mother's steadying hands. It is a parable of human and divine love.

This Christmas, may you stop to really absorb the love that God has for you in the birth of Jesus. May we honor Him as we are called forth into the world to serve. There is no limit to God's affection and desire for our good or to how He cherishes us.

For unto you a child is born. Unto you a savior is given. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

"And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward all.'"

Now everything is different.

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Bill Damrow

Rev. Dr. William J. Damrow, Pastor

PS Please see the announcement of my retirement in August of next year on the next page. It was previously emailed to members in November.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church
95 Eastchester Road
New Rochelle, New York 10801

November 17, 2021

Announcement of Pastor Bill's Retirement

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

After nearly 33 years as your pastor I am announcing my retirement in August of next year, 2022.

Pat and I look forward to moving to our home in upstate New York, outside Woodstock. We hope to enjoy the years to come in good health as a time to live an abundant life in a new way and to see our family more frequently.

I shared this announcement with Dawn McEvoy our Council President and with the Church Council last week and wanted to connect with Bishop Egensteiner and The Rev. Gladys Diaz, Assistant to the Bishop, who in time will guide St. Luke's leadership in a succession plan.

I have been and am blessed to be your pastor. The Book of Ecclesiastes says, "There is a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance." They come together in moments like these when we give thanks for all that has been and prayerfully plan our futures. Love is all part of this.

We will all continue our active and vibrant ministry together in the months to come.

Words cannot convey how thankful I am for you, this congregation, and staff.

To God be the Glory, always.

In Christ,
Pastor Bill Damrow
Rev. Dr. William J. Damrow
Pastor

The Mission of St. Luke's Lutheran Church

St. Luke's exists in order to communicate the Lutheran understanding of the gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone
through a community that seeks warmth and meaning in everyday life.
St. Luke's mission is to address the community
with respect
through
Teaching/learning
hospitality,
Word and Sacrament
in a fellowship faithful to Jesus Christ and committed to growth in response to our Lord's Great Commission:
"Go therefore and make disciples".

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVENTS
& CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE
2021

Advent Evening Prayer /Vespers - Wednesdays,
December 1, 8 & 15 7:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Sunday School Christmas Pageant – Sunday, December 12
10:00 a.m., during worship

St. Luke's Christmas Party Brunch & Caroling – Sunday, December 12
Immediately after worship

Advent Sunday Worship and Refugee Sunday! - Sunday, December 19, 10:00 a.m.

December 24 (Friday) - *Christmas Eve Candlelight Festival with Choir- 8:00* p.m.

Service of Readings and Christmas Carols – Sunday, December 26, 10:00 a.m.



ADVENT VESPERS – MIDWEEK REST AND RENEWAL



We gather once again around the Christ candle and dozens of candles in the dark amid the "Christmas rush" on Wednesday nights in Advent at 7:30 p.m.

Evening Prayer (the other name for Vespers) offers a quiet and worshipful half hour to *calm down* during Advent. *Give room to your soul*. Invite a friend, family or neighbor and enjoy the approaching Christ-mass. Come and rest awhile where you'll find the true reason for the season. December 1, 8 and 15 at 7:30 p.m.

ANNUAL CONGREGATION BUDGET MEETING

December 5, 2021

The Annual Budget meeting follows immediately after the worship service on **Sunday, December 5**. All active voting members (those who have received Holy Communion and made a contribution of record in the past year) are welcome to vote at the annual congregational budget meeting which helps our church to enter **2022** with a new budget for active ministry to the community and beyond. Grab a beverage and come join us!



MAINTAINING YOUR MEMBERSHIP

The congregation's constitution states that voting membership is maintained by receiving the Sacrament of Holy Communion and making a contribution of record each year.

Every January the congregation updates its membership records by noting those who have maintained membership or removed themselves from the rolls.

This year especially we will be reviewing the list for accuracy in anticipation of the Call process after Pastor Damrow retires.

If time (years) has passed, please attend worship in church soon.

Holy Communion is celebrated regularly for God's people to remain in communion with our Lord and His Church.

WHY GIVE TO ST. LUKE'S?

Because God loves you.



Because our children need a place and programs to learn and grow in faith.

Because our adults need a place to learn and grow.

Because we all need an inspiring place to worship God.

Because our community and country need important places to remind us of God's presence in the world.

Because sacred music and song lift our spirits to God.

Because organizations like A.A. and Boy Scouts and various community groups need a place to meet.

Because the hungry need to be fed and cared for through meals cooked in our kitchen, clothes collected for those in the cold, toys collected so that children may have a Merry Christmas.

Because those who are sick and hospitalized need visits and prayers.

Because our elderly and homebound need visits and prayers.

Because Thanksgiving and Christmas and Easter need to be highlighted in our life.

Because we need to pray and work to alleviate hunger and support people in need.

Because our beautiful building and campus need continuous care.

Because we have to pay for electricity, oil, telephone, mailings, paper, salaries, and all the other expenses of running a church.

Because supporting a vital community of faith is the best investment one can make in the world today, more than ever.

Because we need to hear the Good News of God's loving salvation in Jesus Christ, and so does the world around us.

Because God loves you.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church

ANNUAL Congregation Christmas Party and
TOY DRIVE for HOPE Community Services

Dec 12th 2021



Please join us immediately following service!

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 DRIVE THRU Collection Dec 12th 11-12pm in the Church parking lot….. 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?

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR
from the Fellowship Committee

Christmas Blessings to you and to your families. We hope this newsletter finds you and your families healthy and happily looking forward to a wonderful Christmas season.

St. Luke's has been celebrating services in person as well as some very special events... Confirmation, Gratitude Brunch, food drive and our Annual Holiday Boutique. The choir and Sunday Schools are back in session. Come and celebrate with us.

Our food drive was a success with 690 pieces of food donated. We will let you know if we again win the additional $500 grant for HOPE.



Our Holiday boutique was a smashing success. $3100 was raised! Thank you all that donated, baked, bought and especially helped with set up and clean up! It is a great act of Fellowship and one that we were all missing. Look for our Spring Sale date to come!





Sunday, the 21st we held our Coat Drive for Hope. We will let you know in the next newsletter how that went.

Upcoming dates include our Congregational Christmas Party and Toy Drive on Dec. 12th and Refugee Sunday on Dec 19th.

We continue to use CoVid safety precautions. We hope to see you all soon. If you are on Facebook, please join our page. "St. Luke's New Rochelle"

While our committee has successfully managed to retain an active membership, we continue to recruit in the name of St. Luke's Fellowship all those with the time and talents to support our mission of unity and oneness in Christ. Our church is an amazing family because we are all part of it. Thank you for your continued support and dedication! Please let us know if there is anything we can do for you.

Yours In Christ
Pat Damrow and Dawn McEvoy

SENDING CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



St. Lukes will send 140 hand-written Christmas cards to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services for families in detention centers. Our thanks to those who donated cards and those who wrote messages of hope and love in Spanish or English.

SAVE THE DATE

St. Luke's has designated Sunday December 19 as Migrant and Refugee Sunday. Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 11:15 to listen to Amy Robertson from Hearts and Homes for Refugees. She will speak about the organization's work in the Lower Hudson valley and the recent challenges of settling the influx of Afghan refugees. Amy's time living in Honduras and Lebanon reinforced her commitment to help those fleeing violence and persecution. She is a life-long Lutheran and a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Mamaroneck. Come and hear about St. John's outreach programs.

Look for the return of the World Map where we will be identifying all the different countries that St. Luke's families have come from over the years. Where did your ancestors originate or were you an immigrant like me? What could happen that would make you leave your home, friends, and family forever?

SOCIAL MINISTRY OUTREACH AT WORK



November's Hope Cook Team (Joan Bast and Bill Rodriguez, Lisa and Olivia Connors, Walt Mitze, Patti and Rich Tobin, and Denise Tolles) were thrilled to again be cooking in our wonderful new ovens after a summer of relying mostly on pre-cooked chicken or pre-cooked meatballs. The team prepared a hearty, colorful meal of chicken sausage, peppers and onions over rice.

Next Hope Cook is Sunday Dec.19th. All welcome! Recipe ideas also welcome!

A Hope coordinator to our community writes:
"You are the instruments in bringing hope to the HOPE community. We are truly thankful to have such wonderful partners in helping make HOPE's mission a reality. This wouldn't be possible without the assistance of you and your many ready willing and able committee members as well as the generous support of the organization you represent. Please convey our thanks and wishes for a Thanksgiving and Holiday Season of good health, safe times and joy hopefully in being near to those you hold dear.
With gratitude and my warmest wishes for joyful times and much happiness,
Ellen"

Merry Christmas from the Sunday School and Youth Group



We are so excited to welcome you back to Sunday school. Attendance has been low and slow, but we hope it will pick up. All teachers are vaxxed and all children wear masks.

We are still sending weekly lessons in case the children have not been able to attend. God's Good News always finds a way.

The church services are in person as well recorded and posted on-line.

On October 31st we celebrated our 2020 Confirmands, followed by a reception in the Fellowship Hall. We also celebrated our gratitude for all of our blessings at the Gratitude Brunch.



The Holiday Boutique was a huge success.

December is our annual Christmas Pageant and right now we only have 2 children participating. We will have covid precautions in place. Please consider having your children join us. ALL ages from PreK to 12th grade are invited to join!

Don't forget SOUPERBOWL Sunday is Feb 13th!!!

Please continue to support the Sunday School with your contributions.

God Bless you and your families….

Dawn, Jen, Vicky, Shari, Melissa, Jacob,
Karen and Traci

Meditation Garden
BUY A BRICK

In honor of our 150th Anniversary we are adding to our beautiful Meditation Garden. For those we have loved and lost, for the milestones we have cherished, what better way to memorialize them. Add your lasting memory! To place your order, please use the form below:

In Honor of

Janie Smith

First Holy Communion

"4x8" Brick 3 Lines $100

In Memory of
Grandma
Grandpa
Rest In Peace
We love and miss you Today
and Always

"8x8" Brick 6 Lines $250

Mini Bricks are available-exact replicas of larger bricks WITH purchase only. Cost $25 each. Approx size 1 ½"x3"

Brick 4"x8" (3 lines – 20 characters and spaces per line)

Brick 8"x8" (6 lines – 20 characters and spaces per line)

To order additional bricks, please make additional copies of this flyer.

Your Name _____
Phone _____ Email_____
Address _____
City _____ State_____ Zip _____

 # _____ 4"x8" Brick(s) @ $100 = _____ **#_____ 8"x8" Brick(s) @$250 =_____**
#_____ Mini Brick(s) @$25 = _____ **TOTAL ENCLOSED = $_____**

(cont'd on next page)

ALL PURCHASES AND DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE. Please make checks payable to St. Luke's Lutheran Church and mail or deliver this form with your check to: **St. Luke's Church, 95 Eastchester Road, New Rochelle, NY 10801**

If you have any questions, please contact Dawn McEvoy at 347-604-3969 or email mmcevoy33@aol.com ***Thank you for your support!!!***

BOOK CLUB CORNER

The December meeting of St. Luke's Book Club will be on Thursday December 16th. Our book selection is *Hallelujah Anyway* by Anne Lamont. We meet via Zoom at 7p.m. Everyone is welcome to join us!



ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING- February 6, 2022



St. Luke's Annual Meeting (minus the budget which is voted on separately in December) will be held Sunday, **February 6 (**snow date February 13) following Sunday worship. All active voting members are invited and expected to attend. Learn about all we've done together in 2022 as we look forward to the new year and toward the future of St. Luke's. Also, election of new Church Council members.

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.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA



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 Bulletin. Cost: $25.00

Deadline Date: *December 15, 2021*

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA

*In Memory of*_____

*or In Honor of*_____

*In Gratitude for*_____

*From*_____

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



JOIN US SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH

TO HELP DO OUR PART TO END HUNGER!

ALL DONATIONS WILL GO TO "LUTHERAN WORLD HUNGER".

The last few years we have raised over $1000.00 each year. Let's keep the tradition going!
Make checks payable to "St. Luke's Lutheran Church" memo "Souperbowl"
or bring your cash and fill our soup pots!

Thank you from the Youth Group and Sunday School.

AROUND THE PARISH

In our prayers this month are all those undergoing further tests, treatment, or healing, especially *Henry Doerr, Jennifer Archer, Gail Olsen, Marva Montalvo, Paula Hayes, Roz Wallace, Rupert Thompson* and all those named in our Sunday Prayer List.



We rejoice with Alexandra Archer and Joseph Palmeri on the celebration of their wedding on November 6, 2021. The happy couple exchanged vows at the Surf Club on the Sound in New Rochelle with Pastor Damrow officiating. It was a beautiful, joyful marriage ceremony. Congratulations, Alexandra and John!

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

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

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

12/1 Judy & John Amato
Joy & Michael Mitchell

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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

St. Luke's Lutheran Church – December 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
All Sundays 9a-Sr. Choir Rehearsal 10a-Choir 10a-Sunday School 11a-Coffee Hour ***ADVENT***			*1* 10a-Clergy Pericope Study 10:00a-Prayer Group **7:30p-Advent Vespers** 8p-Choir Rehearsal	*2* 7:30p-Confirmation Class	*3* 7:15p-Boy Scouts	*4* 9:30a-A.A. Men's Group
5 ***ADVENT II*** 10a-Eucharist 10a-Blessing of the Crèche ***11a-Annual Budget Meeting***	*6* 6:30p-Soccer Group	*7* 7:30p-Worship & Music	*8* 10a-Clergy Pericope Study 10:00a-Prayer Group **7:30p-Advent Vespers** 8p-Choir Rehearsal	*9* 7:30p-Confirmation Class	*10* 7:15p-Boy Scouts	*11* 9:30a-A.A. Men's Group
12 ***ADVENT III*** 10a-Eucharist 10a-Blessing of the Christmas Tree **10a-Sunday School Christ Pageant & Congregation Christmas Party** **11a– HOPE Toy Drive**	*13*	*14* 7:30p-Church Council Mtg.	*15* 10a-Clergy Pericope Study 10:00a-Prayer Group **7:30p-Advent Vespers** 8p-Choir Rehearsal	*16* 7p-St. Luke's Book Club 7:30p-Confirmation Class	*17* 5:30-Set up: Eagle Court Of Honor - Boy Scouts	*18* 9:30a-A.A. Men's Group
19 ***ADVENT IV*** 10a-Eucharist 11a-Cooking for HOPE	*20* 10a-HOPE Food Pickup	*21*	*22* 9:15a-Preschool Christmas Pageant 10a-Clergy Pericope Study 10:00a-Prayer Group ***No Confirmation Class***	*23*	*24* ***8p-Christmas Eve Service*** 8p-Sr. Choir *No Boy Scouts* *Office Closed*	*25* ***Nativity of Our Lord*** ***Christmas Day*** No A.A. Men's Group
26 ***10a-Christmas Carols Sunday***	*27*	*28*	*29* 10a-Clergy Pericope Study 10:00a-Prayer Group ***No Confirmation Class***	*30*	*31* No Boy Scouts *Office Closed*	***JAN. 1*** ***New Year's Day*** *No A.A. Men's Group*

Thank you to the Patrons of St. Luke's Voice – 2021

Jennifer Archer	Nancy Sigler
Bob Maresca	Madeline Tappert
Art Rankis	Ernest & Rosalind Wallace
Aija Sears	Lilian Warren

Patrons are those who wish to make a gift to help support the publication of St. Luke's Voice.

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

St. Luke's Voice

December 2021 – January 2022

Christmas

Epiphany

St. Luke's Lutheran Church *(ELCA)*

95 Eastchester Rd.
New Rochelle, New York
10801-1209

Please Open Immediately:
TIME DATED