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# St. Luke's Voice

St. Luke's Lutheran Church, New Rochelle, NY

December 2024 ~ January 2025

## **St. Luke's Lutheran Church**

95 Eastchester Road  
New Rochelle, NY 10801

Rev. James O'Hanlon,  
Coverage Pastor  
917 803-3974

## **Sunday Worship: 10 A.M.**

Phone: (914) 632-2116  
[StLuke654@aol.com](mailto:StLuke654@aol.com)  
SLNR.org

Visit us on Facebook!

## **Newsletter**

Editor: Pat Fredericks

### **Christian and Jewish Clergy Trip**

On November 9<sup>th</sup> I left for a six-day trip to Israel. Israel is, of course, in the midst of its most serious war in many decades. Like most current events it is highly charged and polarized in public discussions. While the United States has fought many wars, very few have been on our soil and only once with a neighboring country. It's hard for us to imagine how different this experience is. This war is one more thing in a growing list of things that are fragmenting us as a society and is likely dividing people into ever smaller and smaller camps of like-minded people. I'm not going to judge people for having strong feelings and opinions on this or other life and death issues, but I find myself trying to straddle both sides while also rejecting both extremes.

Christians and Jews have a long and often tragic history. Throughout my decades of ministry, I have sought to understand how certain biases, against women, against non-Christians, for example, have seriously diverted us from our core mission. You don't have to care about Jewish people or the State of Israel to be concerned about antisemitism. Hatred of any group, especially when it leads to discrimination and violence is antithetical to the teachings of Christ and for the sake of our own faith, we should educate ourselves on bigotry. Racism, sexism and homophobia, etc., all have ways of disguising themselves and denying their impact or even their existence. Discrimination and exclusion, wars and violence all take on the trappings of patriotism and piety. We don't have to care about the groups who are targeted by bigotry to be concerned about how our own faith is distorted and perverted by such views, hijacked for an agenda of intolerance. So, aside from caring about our neighbor, we should care about efforts to manipulate us by distorting the teachings of Christ. We don't, however, have the luxury of putting "care of neighbor" aside as it is essential to our faith.

Jews and Christians have a complicated and troubled history and working to repair it is basic to the mission of both religions. Paul wrote to the Ephesians, "Christ is our peace. Through his mortality he made both groups one by tearing down the wall of hostility that divided them." (2:14) Intolerance and oppression should not be allowed to hide in Christian clothes; we have a faith that reminds us daily of our inherent sinfulness. The root of all sin is denial, failing to acknowledge our brokenness and our need for repentance and redemption

~ continued on page 2

"If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves" and the devil is the great deceiver. God does not place judgement on us for our sinfulness but wants us to turn toward the life of abundance that is intended for us.

On this trip, six Rabbis and six Christian ministers traveled together to Jewish, Christian and Muslim holy sites. We learned about the history and saw these people and places through new eyes. Traveling with Jewish colleagues we saw things as they did and heard their questions and insights. They experienced the trip along with us. We each saw these places through the eyes of the other and gained a greater perspective and understanding. God has created a world of seemingly infinite diversity. God did not go to all this trouble for us to sift and separate what is comfortable to our inexperienced notions of what we deem worthy. Visiting Joppa (Jaffa), we heard about Peter's vision in Acts chapter ten while we walked those same streets: "Do not call anything impure that God has made clean."

We live in a time when our society is being pushed apart and told to distrust and dehumanize "the other." Nothing could be further from the teachings of Christ. We can have differences, but we cannot deny the dignity of any person or the rights of any human. We should not fail to be grateful for all the gifts of a limitless universe. God has filled our cup to overflowing and it is our duty to love and serve.

*peace,*

Pastor Jim O'Hanlon

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Evening Vespers will be at 7:00 pm on 12/4,  
12/11, and 12/18.

Leading each of the services will be:

12/4-Nancy Sigler

12/11-Susanne Kuligowski

12/18-Renee Taylor



Please join us for these peaceful evenings in quiet preparation for the coming of Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

*O Come* ★  
*Let Us*  
*Adore* Him

Then: On Christmas Eve, December 24<sup>th</sup>, we will offer two opportunities to join in the celebration of the Birth of Our Savior: one service will be at 4pm and will have hymns, gospel, communion and fellowship; the second service will be at 8pm and will offer hymns, communion, gospel, fellowship, choir and candlelight. Rev. John Backe will lead both services.

## YOUR 2025 PLEDGE



Every year we ask our members to make their annual commitment to contribute to the financial and general well-being of the church. Your commitment for the upcoming year allows our Church Council to plan and create a healthy budget and an effective plan. We strive to maintain a balanced and transparent budget, with every dollar put to wise use and invested in our mission together. We also hope to engage every person attending St. Luke's in our weekly worship services, our ongoing community engagement projects, and our regular celebrations of special days and events.

If you have not already done so, please bring the pledge card you received in the mail to worship on Sunday or mail it to the church office.

Your pledge is a good faith intent statement of what you will give for 2025. The amount is entirely up to you. We encourage a pledge that makes you feel good to be doing your part in this beloved community. We encourage 100% participation, no matter the size of the pledge. You can give weekly, monthly or annually by check or cash or set up an automatic payment schedule through your bank. Thank you for your generosity!

Thank you to those Members who have submitted their 2025 Pledge to date!

Judy Amato	Pat and Brad Fredericks	Walter and Beth Mitze
Cathi Behrend	Stacey and Kris Haymon	Camille and Ed O'Garro
Lydia Bersito	Jacob Kuligowski	Angelika Ridulfo
Irene Breen	Susanne Kuligowski	Nancy Sigler
Thyra Brooks	Linda Lamos	Denise Tolles
Traci Daniele	Dawn and Leam McEvoy	Julia and Marty Ungewitter
Joseph Ferraro	Melissa McEvoy	Kathleen Wirak

## SPECIAL MEETING

**The Annual Congregation Budget Meeting and Special Meeting** immediately follows the worship service on Sunday, December 8, 2024, in the gym/fellowship hall. In addition to considering the budget for 2025, the Agenda includes update on the sale of the parsonage, update on use of parsonage proceeds, consideration of pending repair projects and election of the Nominating Committee. All voting members (those who have received Holy communion at least once in the previous year and have made a contribution of record) are please urged to attend, and to bring all eligible family members, since a quorum of 30 members is required for any approval.



## HOPE COOK HAPPENINGS



Thanks to November's Hope Team ( **Angelika Ridulfo, Joan Bast, Bill Rodriguez, Jennifer Archer, and Susanne Kuligowski**) for getting the food prep job done with a small crew, plus coordinating pantry goods and coats for donation.

Thanks to our Texas friends, **Gloria and Larry Head**, who have again donated trays and lids for our Hope Cook!

The next Hope Cook is **Sunday, December 15th**. (Yes, same day as the Congregation Christmas party!)

I recently received the note below from Hope's volunteer food coordinator in recognition of St. Luke's work for Hope.

Denise

.....

**'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 St. Luke's Lutheran Church community which 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'

AND A NOTE FROM THE  
SOCIAL MINISTRY CHAIR:

Dear St. Luke's,

I am stepping down as chair of the social ministry committee at the end of this year and making space for new leadership to guide our social and community service work. Thank you to Angelika Ridulfo for chairing the committee in the new year. We have an amazing committee of generous and talented members, and I am ever grateful for your support and friendship in our efforts to serve others.

Best wishes,  
Lisa Connors



## HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE UPDATE

I would like to share some updates about our Holiday Boutique on Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup>.



We had a great crew come to set up Friday night, all of our participating members plus a few extra, boy scouts came to help, Steven, our sexton helped set up tables and chairs.

We had new vendors and a few returning, Martha was there, Avon, Paparazzi and Tastefully simple. We also had Coily Girl Wreaths and Lorrie's pen toppers... Cathie had her beautiful needlepoint as well. All great additions to our fair. It brought in new faces and a new selection,

but alas, the day was so beautiful not that many new spenders...

Our net for the weekend so far is \$2600. We will gladly accept your donations, especially if you were not able to attend. You can put cash or check in my box! (Update as of today we have met our \$3k goal!)

Also, I wanted to update you on something new we did this year: while on retreat Lydia and Angelika had a great idea:

We invited HOPE, Hearts and Home and Iona Students to come AT 3:30 and shop for free at the rummage sale only. We had the most amazing people from the Ukraine, and a few from Hope. A Muslim family that had two children and twins on the way were able to get a baby stroller, bassinet and rocker. She was so happy she hugged me, while her adorable son, maybe 5ish, gave Lydia and I a Reese's peanut butter cup with the biggest smile. Hearts and Home told us that the refugees really appreciate sets and traditional ornate items that remind them of home. Please put together any sets to help these amazing people. For example, a service for 4 or 6, cleaned and packaged in a box would be greatly appreciated. We can work with the coordinator to get anything we have picked up at the church. We also had an additional 8 to 10 bags of clothing/coats that Hope has picked up.

This made my day! What a great idea and way to help the community. Thank you, Angelika, and anyone else who thought of this. We were also able to put many items into the Sextons/Pastor's apartment. A coffee table, 4 lamps, towels, comforter, throw blanket and almost a complete kitchen, which Angelika washed and put away.

I'm sorry but I need to add, although it is a fellowship event, I am one that would rather donate than work for three days. These events take shopping/set up/cooking/and cleanup, which thanks to Dawn and her family is meticulously calculated and runs like a well-oiled machine. The Elmers helped me set up the entire clothing room on Friday night. It took Lydia, and I over three hours to clean up and pack up on Sunday. Thank God Joan and Bill joined us after church to pack up the clothes and move all of the boxes into the Boys shower. This is a labor of love and fellowship, but we need volunteers. I also think when we request donations, we emphasize that everything is clean, no electronics, monitors, cookers, coffee pots. People will NOT take them as they are not sure they are not in good working order and then we must just throw them away. The amount of trash is unbelievable. Perhaps we can ask that any electronics are packed in a box properly with a note that they have been tested and worked and have the proper attachments included. If we must dispose of a great many leftovers, it comes with a cost to our bottom line for the church maintenance staff.

Again, thank you to all that participated in ANY and EVERY way.... Peace, Traci Daniele

## CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS from the Fellowship Committee



Thank you all for your support and participation at the Holiday Boutique. Again, it was a labor of love and fellowship for our church. Thank you to our vendors, new and old. It was great having you. Even though we had much more foot traffic, some sales were a little slower. Our net was approx. \$2600 for the weekend, a little less than usual, but as of today we are at our Budgeted proceeds of \$3k. We welcome ideas or suggestions for next time. . . Spring? Later in November?? We did much more advertising and joined the chamber this year. I had at least 6 personally from social media, 2 from DeCicco's. See the Newsletter article from Traci Daniele on the previous page.

Again, thank you all for the effort you contributed. Anyone who was not present or donated we will still gladly accept your contribution!!! Make checks payable to St Luke's and memo "holiday boutique". Or I will accept cash!!

Don't forget the Toy Drive is December 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Please support the HOPE community!

We are hosting a Christmas Concert for the Community on Saturday, Dec 14<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. Share the flyer; bring your neighbors, family and friends.

Please come to the Congregation Christmas Party, Dec 15<sup>th</sup> immediately following church. We will have a continental breakfast, caroling and a visit from the big guy!

We will have 2 services on Christmas Eve. 4pm will be a slightly abridged version of Christmas Eve but will include the hymns, the gospel, communion and community. And 8pm is our customary Christmas Eve Service.

Thank you to our Deacons, lay leaders and all our supply Pastors for serving us every Sunday. We are so grateful for your commitment and dedication. We do have Supply Pastors every week, through May 2025. There will be weekly Communion.

We continue to look forward to seeing everyone at church and at coffee hours. Thank you to the committees for helping to make coffee hour so successful!

God's blessings to you and your families! God Bless our Congregation and our beloved church! If you are on Facebook, please join our page. "St. Luke's New Rochelle". Please visit our Website at SLNR.org.

Thank you to our committee and 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.

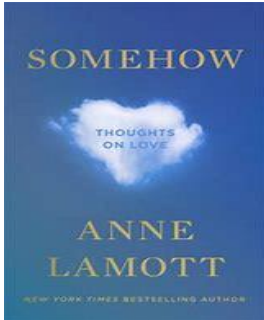
*Yours In Christ*

*Dawn McEvoy email: [Mmcevoy33@aol.com](mailto:Mmcevoy33@aol.com) cell: 347-604-3960*

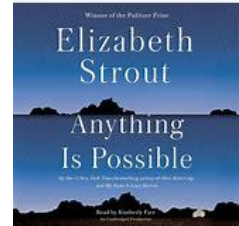
*Committee members: Julia Ungewitter, Angelika Ridulfo, Leam, Melissa and Vicky McEvoy, Susanne and Jacob Kuligowski, Renee, Bill and Shari Taylor, Lydia Bersito and Traci Daniele*

## BOOK CLUB CORNER

St. Luke's Book Club discussed Louise Erdrich's recent novel, *The Sentence*, which begins on All Souls' Day 2019 and ends on All Souls' Day 2020. We loved the unforgettable protagonist, Tookie, who survives years of incarceration by "reading with murderous intention." Erdrich's compelling narrative was thought-provoking, emotional and profound. We covered many topics ranging from the election and politics, CoVid, BLM movement, the rights of indigenous people and ghost stories.



Book Club meets monthly on Thursdays at Barnes & Noble Bookstore in Scarsdale. Everyone is welcome! Our December book is *Somehow: Thoughts On Love* by Anne Lamott. We will be meeting on December 12. Our January title is *Anything Is Possible* by Elizabeth Strout. We meet on January 30, 2025.



*From the time of birth to the time of death, every word you utter is part of one long sentence.*

--- Sun Yung Shen, *Unbearable Splendor*.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR from the Sunday School

We continue welcoming guests and new students to the Sunday School. If you would like to register, or if you have not registered yet, please do so by contacting Dawn McEvoy. All children aged 3 to High School are welcome. We have wonderful teachers that are all Sunday School grads including ME!

December we will have our Toy Drive for Hope Dec 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>. Please see the flyer on the next page and help support HOPE Community services.

December 15<sup>th</sup> is our Christmas Pageant during the worship service and Congregational Christmas Party immediately following church. All are welcome! SANTA'S Coming!!!



All students should have their own envelopes to use for Sunday donations. We like to teach children the importance of tithing at an early age and your donations helps us to do all the things we do for the Sunday School: their lessons, supplies, crafts, gifts, pageants, costumes, parties... We ask that all children use their envelopes; if the children do not have them, we will provide them. Please help to support the Sunday School with your contributions.

God Bless you and your families.... Hope to see you all Sunday!  
Please visit our website and Facebook pages. [www.Slnr.org](http://www.Slnr.org) and [@slnr.org](https://www.facebook.com/slnr.org)

Yours in Christ,

Dawn McEvoy – Superintendent Email: [mmcevoy33@aol.com](mailto:mmcevoy33@aol.com)

Karen Fontecchio – Asst. Superintendent, Traci Daniele – Treasurer,

Teachers – Melissa McEvoy, Vicky McEvoy, Shari Taylor and Jacob Kuligowski

**HOPE**  
COMMUNITY SERVICES  
**Holiday**  
**TOY**  
**DRIVE**

December 1<sup>st</sup> 2024

*Help Bring a Little Joy to Over 550 Local Children  
Newborn - 12 Years*

*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 St. Luke's Church Dec 1<sup>st</sup>  
to be placed beneath the Christmas Tree.*

Your gift of a new unwrapped toy will be distributed on Dec. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Any questions please contact  
Dawn McEvoy at [mmcevoy33@aol.com](mailto:mmcevoy33@aol.com).  
Thank you for your continued support!

Amazon Wishlist

Donate Your Way

**St. Luke's Lutheran Church**  
Presents a FREE

# Christmas Concert

*With the St. Luke's Senior Choir  
directed by Iryna Arbatska*

*Featuring Julia Breanetta Simpson  
and Friends Musical Director,  
Mario E. Sprouse*

**Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 4pm**

**St. Luke's Church  
95 Eastchester Road, New Rochelle, NY 10801**

**Refreshments to follow in the fellowship hall  
Good will offering appreciated.**

***OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY!!! Please join us for an  
hour or so of Christmas music and caroling!***



*St. Luke's Lutheran Church*  
**Annual Congregation**  
**Christmas Party**

~  
**Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> 2024**  
*(immediately following Worship Service and  
Sunday School Pageant)*

~  
Continental Breakfast  
Caroling  
Visit from Santa

~  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

~  
Please rsvp to [mmcevoy33@aol.com](mailto:mmcevoy33@aol.com) or  
Sign up in the Narthex.



## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA

*Order Now to help us Decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas!*

*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: \$35.00*

***Deadline Date:*** *December 15, 2024*

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### 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*

## AROUND THE PARISH



**In Our Prayers** this month are those hospitalized, with health concerns, or in transition or treatment, and all those in our Sunday prayers.

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### December Birthdays

12/1	Alessia Daniele	12/17	Joan Bast-Rodriguez
12/7	Andrew Link	12/18	Holly O'Neill
12/9	Renee Hamilton-Taylor	12/22	Cory Tupper
	Emily Archer	12/27	Gail Olsen
12/11	Lucy Hoffman-Guido	12/30	Rebecca Daniele
12/12	Lillian Alvarez	12/31	Rosemarie Doerr
	Lucille Saavedra		Peter Conroy

### December Anniversaries

12/1	Judy & John Amato
	Joy & Michael Mitchell

### January Birthdays

1/3	Karen Jantzen	1/14	Len Elmer
1/4	Michael O'Neill	1/16	Jackson Tamburro
1/5	Joseph LoPresti	1/17	Henry Bast, Jr.
	Jeniece Oliveras-Triolo	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	Amelia Blake		Avery Harris
	1/31	Katrina Ungewitter	

## St. Luke's Lutheran Church – December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>1 Advent I</i> 10a-Worship with Rev. John Backe 10a-Blessing of Advent Wreath 10a-Sunday School Coffee Hour, Host::Church Council Christmas Tree setup HOPE TOY DRIVE</p> <p><i>8 Advent II</i> 10a-Worship with Rev. John Backe 10a-Blessing of Crèche 10a-Sunday School 11a-Coffee Hour, Host: Sunday School <b>11a-Annual Budget Mtg.</b></p> <p><i>15 Advent III</i> 10a-Worship with Rev. John Backe 10a-Blessing of Christmas Tree; 10a-Sunday School Christmas Pageant &amp; Congregation Party Coffee Hour, Host: Fellowship 11a-Cooking for HOPE</p> <p><i>22 Advent IV</i> 10a-Worship with Rev. John Backe; 10a-Sunday School 11a-Coffee Hour, Host: Altar Guild</p> <p>29 10a-Worship with Rev. John Backe 10a-Sunday School 11a-Coffee Hour, Host: Sr. Choir</p>	<p>2 7p-Basketball Group</p> <p>9 7p-Basketball Group</p> <p>16 10a-HOPE Food Pickup 7p-Basketball Group</p> <p>23 No Basketball Group</p> <p>30 No Basketball Group</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10</p> <p>17</p> <p><i>24 Christmas Eve</i> 4p- &amp; 8p-Christmas Eve Services with Rev. John Backe 4p-No Choir 8p-Choir</p> <p>31</p>	<p>4 7p-Advent Vespers Confirmation Class After Advent Vespers</p> <p>11 7p-Advent Vespers Confirmation Class After Advent Vespers</p> <p>18 7p-Advent Vespers Confirmation Class After Advent Vespers</p> <p><i>25 Nativity of Our Lord/Christmas Day</i> <b>Office Closed</b></p> <p style="color: red;"><i>Merry Christmas!</i></p> <p><b>Jan. 1 New Year's Day</b> <b>Office Closed</b></p>	<p>5</p> <p>12 <i>St. Luke's Book Club</i> <i>12:30pm at Barnes &amp; Noble, Scarsdale</i></p> <p>19</p> <p>26 <b>Office Closed</b></p>	<p>6 7:15p-Boy Scouts</p> <p>13 7:15p-Boy Scouts</p> <p>20 7:15p-Boy Scouts</p> <p>27 <b>Office Closed</b> No Boy Scouts</p>	<p>7 9:30a-A.A. Men's Group</p> <p>3-7pm-Gonzalez Party</p> <p>14 9:30a-A.A. Men's Group</p> <p><b>4p-Christmas Concert</b></p> <p>21 9:30a-A.A. Men's Group</p> <p>28 9:30a-A.A. Men's Group</p>

# Thank you to the Patrons of St. Luke's Voice 2024

Jennifer Archer

Dawn McEvoy

Ernest & Rosalind Wallace

Art Rankis

Aija Sears

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".

February 5, 2025

Dear Patron of "St. Luke's Voice",

Thank you for your contribution to our church newsletter this past year. Your patronage supplements support to the regular production and distribution of "St. Luke's Voice" for all our congregation.

With the March issue coming out, we invite you to renew your patronage for another year for a contribution of \$25.00

Please simply send a check to the church office, made out to St. Luke's and note that it is for "newsletter patron '2025'". We will then be sure to maintain your name amongst the list of patrons.

Thanks again!

Sincerely,

Dawn McEvoy

Church Council President