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# St. Luke's Voice

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

May 2025

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

95 Eastchester Road  
New Rochelle, NY 10801

Rev. John Backe  
Coverage Pastor

## **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

## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JOHN BACKE

*Thank you, Pastor Jim, welcome Pastor John*

We are Easter people! The church celebrates the Easter Season until Pentecost, June 8 this year! *Alleluia!*

This is my first pastor's message for the newsletter. I want to start with a word of thanks for the caring and faithful ministry Pastor Jim O'Hanlon has provided to St. Luke's, especially his work with the confirmation class. We are in a transition now. Beginning this month, I will assume the role of Coverage Pastor as well leading worship most Sundays each month.

I've met a lot of people at St. Luke's already from my presence on Sundays, I look forward to meeting more of you and working together to discern the future of ministry here. In coming months, I will write more about what my role as Coverage Pastor will be and other aspects of our life and ministry together. As a first step we have reorganized the Worship Committee to better understand the role of worship in the community life and seek to make plans for the coming seasons of the church year. We will do the same to consider possibilities for Bible study and other educational experiences.

Many of you probably wonder if we will get a full-time pastor again. In my next letter I will discuss that process in general and the situation for St. Luke's as well as the rest of the synod.

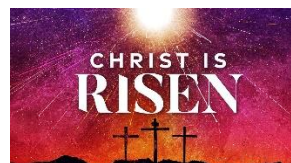
Peace,  
Pastor John

SAVE THE DATE - MAY 18<sup>th</sup>

**Congregation meeting immediately following  
worship service. All voting members are urged to attend.**

**"For the purpose of authorizing church repair projects,  
including, but not limited to replacement of the boiler."**

## COUNCIL REPORT



### Happy Mother's Day!

#### Christ is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed!

Congratulations to our Confirmands, Anna Shiels, Nathan McCusker, Charlotte and Amelia Blake. God Bless you and your families!

Thank you, Pastor O'Hanlon, for leading us for the past year and more as our coverage Pastor. We are so grateful to you for your time, your guidance and your ministry. Thank you for leading our Confirmands to their Confirmation. We are truly blessed.

Welcome to Pastor John Backe as our new coverage Pastor beginning May 1<sup>st</sup>. Pastor has contracted to be with us through the end of the year and will continue to lead most of our Sunday Worship Services. He will also be available for counseling, emergencies, Pastoral Care as needed. Please contact Carla to schedule.

Pastor Backe will also be leading an adult bible study **On Sunday May 4<sup>th</sup> after service.** All are welcome!

As I reported in the last newsletter: "The engineers have come, we are awaiting additional reports for the Boiler replacement and options we may have. We have an estimate for repairing our Bell as well as replacing it with an electric, programmable bell. We have estimates for the Roof and Parking Lot. Once the weather is warmer, we can move forward with those repairs as well. We will keep you posted and of course call a congregation meeting to approve moving forward."



**On Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup> we will hold a full congregation meeting of the members** to vote on major repairs to the church. This includes but is not limited to the Boiler replacement. Please rsvp when the next notice goes out. It is imperative that we have a quorum in order to move forward.

Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> is our Mother's Day Spring Sale. Please join us in any way possible! Susanne will resume our strategic planning meetings after Easter. Thank you to ALL that keeps this church going... we are truly blessed!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Dawn McEvoy, Church Council President

*Denise Tolles, Vice President; Steve Olsen, Treasurer; Karen Fontecchio, Secretary; Lydia Bersito, Brett Buehrer, Donna Elmer, Camille O'Garro, Angelika Ridulfo and Julia Ungewitter. Traci Daniele, Finance Secretary*

## SOME IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Below are some upcoming important dates for you to add to your calendar:



May 4<sup>th</sup> ~~ Bible Study with Pastor Backe –  
Council Room 11:15

May 10<sup>th</sup> ~~ Spring Sale 10-3pm

June 8<sup>th</sup> ~~ End of Year  
Congregation Picnic and Promotion Sunday

July 13<sup>th</sup> ~~ Christmas in July

Sept. 7<sup>th</sup> ~~ Rally Day

## NEWS FROM OUR SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE

The Social Ministry Team had a busy month to match the Spring Awakening



Easter was of course the highlight, and our shut-ins received Easter Greeting Cards, along with phone calls. We also used the opportunity to cook for HOPE and bring some Easter cheer to the hungry in our wider community – this was gratefully received.

Several other parishioners with health care needs were contacted throughout the month as well – please support them with your prayers too (the prayer list is in the Sunday bulletin)! You can also actively support our parishioner outreach by donating ‘Get Well / Thinking of You’ cards – we will gladly use them.

Our next upcoming project will be a Food Drive for HOPE, and Joan Bast will take the lead to organize it – you will find all the details on the flier which is included in Sunday bulletins or contact any member of the committee.



And to close out the month, some of the women on our team (Jennifer, Denise, Camille, Angelika) retreated to Koinonia to strengthen our partnership with this Christian Faith Community – what a refreshing time it was.

Peace,  
Angelika Ridulfo

Committee Members: Jennifer Archer, Joan Bast, Ken & Lisa & Olivia Connors, Patricia Fredericks, Susanne Kuligowski, Leam McEvoy, Camille O’Garro, Bill Rodriguez, Denise Tolles

## COOKING FOR HOPE

On Easter Sunday, Leam, Bill, Joan, Lydia and Angelika made a delicious meal of roasted chicken thighs with gravy on the side, Halal chicken nuggets, veggies & rice for Hope Community Services.

Our next cook will actually be on a **Saturday - May 17<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m.** - because of the Congregation Meeting conflict on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. All are welcome!

Five members of the Hope Cook Team (Bill R. Joan, Angelika, Leam and Denise, along with our Congregation President, Dawn) were pleased to visit The Hope Community Services facility in New Rochelle for a Sunday coffee and dessert reception. It was an opportunity for Hope to express its gratitude to St. Luke's and other churches and organizations for their support.

We extend to members of the St. Luke's congregation Hope's profuse appreciation for the pantry items and hot meals. We were afforded a tour of the kitchen, pantry and dining area and came away with a new admiration of how much the staff at Hope is able to accomplish with our help.



## BOOK CLUB CORNER

At our **May** get together we will be discussing *The First Ladies* by Marie Benedict & Victoria Chirstopher Murray. We will meet Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at Barnes & Noble in Scarsdale/Eastchester at 12:30pm.

Our selections for June and the summer are:

**JUNE:** *THE MARRIAGE PORTRAIT* By MAGGIE O' FARRELL

**SUMMER:** *THE GOD OF SMALL THINGS* By ARUNDHATI ROY



Everyone is welcome to join us at any or all of these Book Club get togethers to enjoy and discuss these excellent reads.



## Happy Mother's Day from the Fellowship Committee



Our Annual Women's Retreat to Koinonia was April 24-27<sup>th</sup>. What a wonderful time we had....14 of us spent a fabulous weekend, sharing our faith and having fun! Boating, Hiking, Yoga, Taize, Bible Study, Crafting, finishing a 1000-piece puzzle by SAT NIGHT!!! Please consider joining us next year. It's open to all women over the age of 18. We also have our next family retreat planned for October 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>. ALL are welcome.



We celebrated four confirmands on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Anna Shiels, Nathan McCusker, Amelia and Charlotte Blake. Congratulations to them and their families.

May 10<sup>th</sup> we will have our next SPRING Sale. It's for one day only. WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT! We will have plants for Mother's Day, raffles, rummage, new vendors and so much more... PLEASE COME OUT and SUPPORT US!!! See more info and flier in this newsletter.

June 8<sup>th</sup> is our end of the year Congregation Picnic. Please plan to attend!!!!

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!

*(Fellowship Article continued next page)*

Thank you to Pastor Jim for his service as our Coverage Pastor this past year plus. We are so grateful for your leadership and guidance and especially for leading our confirmands to their Confirmation. God bless you!!!

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: 347-604-3969**

**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**





HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!  
From the Sunday School



Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers or the "like moms", the grandmas, aunts, sisters and all those that we are blessed to call "mom" ... May you have a wonderful Day and may all your "Children" spoil you the way you deserve.

We had a Fabulous Easter, Easter Pageant, and Easter Egg Hunt. It is one of our greatest joys as Sunday School Teachers. I hope you all enjoyed, it was quite fabulous!

On April 27<sup>th</sup> we celebrated Confirmation with our Confirmands, Anna Shiles, Amelia and Charlotte Blake and Nathan McCusker. Not only did they look like beautiful young adults, but they shared their Bible Quotes that were amazing. I remember the girls, all being angels and Mary in our Pageants. I remember Nathan as our Shepherd and a Wise Man. I don't think he ever got to play Jesus or Joseph, I'm sorry, you can always come back next year, you are never too old! We had a lovely reception with their families afterwards. We presented them with Personalized Bibles and gifts from the Sunday School. The Confirmands are presenting to the church a gift of a new Candle Lighter. Thank you so much!

We have our Annual Mother's Day Spring Sale on May 10<sup>th</sup>. We need your help, your donations and your patronage. See the Fellowship insert and flier. Please share the flier with all your friends, families, contacts... Every little bit helps!

*(Article continued next page)*



ALSO, while you are sharing that, Share the Love! Tell your neighbors how great our church is. Jesus said go forth and be fishers of men... that includes children! We will always continue to welcome guests and new students to the Sunday School. All children aged 3 to High School are welcome.

Please continue to use your child's own tithing envelopes for Sunday donations. It helps to defray the costs of everything we do for the children. We would also welcome any donations from the congregation!!! Please continue 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)

**LOVE and blessings to you all!**

Yours in Christ,

Dawn McEvoy – Superintendent

Email: [mmcevoy33@aol.com](mailto:mmcevoy33@aol.com)

Karen Fontecchio – Asst. Superintendent, Traci Daniele – Treasurer

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





## UPDATE from the FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE: Mother's Day Spring Sale May 10<sup>th</sup> -- 10-3pm

Happy beautiful Spring Day! Most of you have volunteered and donated in the past so I am addressing you specifically.

**In 2 weeks, we will be hosting our Annual Spring Sale. May 10th 10-3pm**  
**This year it is Mother's Day Weekend and we are calling it our "Mother's Day Spring Sale".**

Thanks to Rose Hill Nursery we will have beautiful plants for sale.

Thanks to the rest of you wonderful people.... We will also have our fabulous bake sale, jewelry and gift table, happy everything, Cathie's beautiful embroidery, rummage galore, RAFFLES Galore, and lunch from the Café.

We have 6 Vendors participating this year, 3 you know, Avon, Tastefully Simple and Mary Kay, Paparazzi \$5 jewelry, custom magnets - she can take any pic and turn it into a magnet, custom pens - handmade candles, We also have a face painter/balloon artist coming for free. Please bring your kids and grandkids... tell your friends and families.

We may have a SMALL book area, available by the bag. We have so many and we don't make much money from the books. If you know anyone that could use them, please let us know and we will donate.

This will be Saturday only, unless those working at the tables (not our vendors) want to stay Sunday. It will be up to you or someone you assign to pack up your table Sunday.  
As it is Mother's Day, we are NOT expecting anything. Leam and I will be there for an hour after church on Sunday.

### WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU...

**Sign up for a table, a time you are available, set up Friday night 6pm, clean up Sat after 3 pm, Sunday after church -**  
we have boy scouts Friday night but NO extra manpower Saturday pm!

**DONATE - RAFFLES** - our biggest money maker is the raffles!! EVERY committee should take a collection and donate. I will shop and spend your money! Drop off in gym Sundays - ANY NEW REGIFT ITEMS work! See me please.

**DONATE - Rummage** - Aunt Lydia says "crap sells" they need and love your old treasures. Drop off in front of the water fountain on Sunday. Hearts and Home is coming again at 3:30 Saturday for whatever Rummage we have left over that they can use.

**DONATE - Baked Goods** - we need anything you want to bake or buy to donate. We always need cookies, cakes, muffins, pies. It's Mother's Day, people need desserts to bring to the events. See Nancy please.

Especially if you cannot be there Saturday, please donate something we can profit from.

**SHOP**  
**SPREAD THE WORD**

We need patrons from outside, we want people to see our beautiful church.... We need you to help market it.

I put on all social media, New Rochelle Chamber, The Journal News, Patch pages... my vendors share with their contacts. We need you to do the same.

The flier is included below; please copy, paste and share.  
Or ask me for copies at church I will gladly make you some.

ANY ideas? Thoughts? I will have a signup sheet, and I will share this with rest of congregation and in newsletter.

Thank you so much for your support, cooperation and generosity!

Yours always

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



The flyer is set against a light green background with a subtle floral pattern. On the left side, there is a vertical arrangement of stylized flowers in shades of green, yellow, and red. In the top left corner, the St. Luke's Lutheran Church logo is displayed, featuring a blue cross with a white 'L' and the text 'St. Luke's LUTHERAN CHURCH'. Below the logo, the church's address is listed: '95 Eastchester Road New Rochelle, NY'. In the top right corner, the words 'MOTHER'S DAY' are enclosed in a black rectangular box. The main title 'SPRING SALE' is written in large, bold, black serif capital letters. Below the title, the date 'Saturday, May 10th' and the time '10am – 3pm' are listed in a black serif font. A list of items for sale follows, with each line in a different color (green, red, blue, yellow, red, green, blue, red, yellow) and italicized: 'PLANT SALE ~ RUMMAGE ~ RAFFLES', 'HANDMADE ITEMS ~ JEWELRY', 'GIFTS ~ AVON ~ MARY KAY', 'PAPARAZZI ~ TASTEFULLY SIMPLE', 'CUSTOM PENS ~ CUSTOM MAGNETS', 'ANCIENT BREW CANDLES', 'BAKED GOODS ~ CAFÉ AND MORE...', and 'Pennys Party Place – Face Painting & Balloons'. At the bottom right, a small line of text reads 'Contact [mmcevoy33@aol.com](mailto:mmcevoy33@aol.com) with questions'.

**St. Luke's**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

95 Eastchester Road New  
Rochelle, NY

**MOTHER'S DAY**

**SPRING SALE**

Saturday, May 10th  
10am – 3pm

*PLANT SALE ~ RUMMAGE ~ RAFFLES*  
*HANDMADE ITEMS ~ JEWELRY*  
*GIFTS ~ AVON ~ MARY KAY*  
*PAPARAZZI ~ TASTEFULLY SIMPLE*  
*CUSTOM PENS ~ CUSTOM MAGNETS*  
*ANCIENT BREW CANDLES*  
*BAKED GOODS ~ CAFÉ AND MORE...*  
*Pennys Party Place – Face Painting & Balloons*

Contact [mmcevoy33@aol.com](mailto:mmcevoy33@aol.com) with questions

## 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.

## MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### Birthdays

5/1 Shari Taylor  
 5/2 Thomas Breen  
 Sean Taylor  
 5/6 Olivia Connors  
 5/10 Carmen Thompson  
 Faith Forsberg  
 5/11 Karen DiBiccari  
 5/12 Leam McEvoy  
 Melissa Rubicco  
 5/15 Sherry Fraser-Pulvermiller  
 5/16 Daniel Brisson  
 5/17 John Rubicco

5/21 Victoria McEvoy  
 5/22 Nancy LoPresti  
 Michael Dassler  
 5/24 Matthew Brent  
 Conor Ahyoung  
 5/26 Susan Johansen-Shiels  
 Matthieu Rankis  
 5/27 Roberta Dassler  
 Karen Fontecchio  
 5/28 Megan Fontecchio  
 5/29 Margaret Lenz  
 5/31 Kristen Johnson-Head

### Anniversaries

5/3 Michael & Nadia Dassler  
 5/15 Richard & Patricia Tobin  
 5/18 Clifford & Roberta Dassler  
 5/18 Kristen & Matthew Head  
 5/21 Margaret & Michael Nicolais  
 5/22 Joan Bast-Rodriguez & William Rodriguez





# St. Luke's Lutheran Church – May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><u><b>All Sundays:</b></u>            9a-Choir Rehearsal            10a-Choir            10a-Sunday School            11a-Coffee Hour</p>						
<p><b>4</b>            10a-Worship with            Rev. Backe            10a-Sunday School            11a-Coffee Hour,            Host: Sr. Choir            11:15a-Bible Study            with Pastor Backe</p>	5	6	7	8	9 7:15p– Boy Scouts	<p>3 9:30a– A.A. Men's Group</p> <p>10  <b>St. Luke's Spring Sale 10 am-3 p.m.</b>            No A.A. Men's Group</p>
<p><b>11 Mother's Day</b>            10a-Worship with            Rev. Brown            10a-Blessing of            Mothers            10a-Sunday School            11a-Coffee Hour,            Host: Sunday School</p>	12	13	14	15	16 7:15p– Boy Scouts	<p>17 9:30a– A.A. Men's Group  <b>11a-Cooking for HOPE</b></p>
<p>18            10a-Worship with            Rev. Backe            10a-Sunday School            11a-Coffee Hour,            Host Social Ministry  <b>11a-Congregation Mtg.</b></p>	<p>19            10a-Hope Food            Pickup  <b>7p-Church Council Mtg.</b></p>	20	21	22 12:30p-Book Club at Barnes & Noble	23 No Boy Scouts	24 9:30a– A.A. Men's Group
<p>25            10a-Worship with            Rev. Brown            10a-Sunday School            11a-Coffee Hour,            Host: Fellowship</p>	<p><b>26 Memorial Day</b>  <i>Office Closed</i></p>	27	28	29	30 7:15p– Boy Scouts	31 9:30a– A.A. Men's Group

## **Thank you to the Patrons of St. Luke's Voice – 2025**

Jennifer Archer

Nancy Sigler

Art Rankis

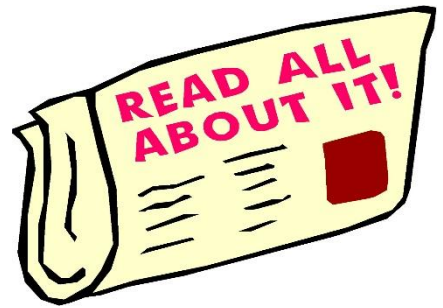
Ernest & Rosalind Wallace

Aija Sears

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