
St. Luke's Voice

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

June, July, August 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
SLNR.org

Visit us on Facebook!

Newsletter
Editor: Pat Fredericks

ST. LUKE'S SUMMER NEWSLETTER

I'm writing this on Memorial Day; in a few weeks it will be the 4th of July. National holidays lead me to think about the relationship between faith and government. My understanding of the Lutheran tradition is that the government, at all levels, has a calling to provide good order for all people with fairness and wisdom. Our role, as citizens is to support that when it happens and work to correct it when it falls short. These are always important considerations, they seem especially important these days.

In the United States, we have an important belief in the separation of church and state. This means all religions have equal respect and equal opportunity to practice their faith and advocate accordingly. The government cannot show favor to one religion, there is no "official American religion".

I hope you learned these basic concepts in your high school civics class, or elsewhere. I'm writing this reminder because there are increasing challenges to this shared understanding in our current political turmoil. You may hear the term "Christian Nationalism" in news broadcasts or in my sermons. I would be happy to discuss this with you if you have questions, but briefly, Christian Nationalists believe, among other things, that the United States should be a "Christian nation", that Christianity should be the official religion and some religions should be banned. When they say the government should rule by "Christian" principles they don't mean feeding the hungry and housing the homeless. Simply put, Christian Nationalism is a political/cultural movement co-opting Christian symbols and language.

On Memorial Day, we honor those who gave their lives in war in defense of the American tradition and government. We need to honor that sacrifice by continued vigilance to protect those values in our daily lives as well.

Pastor John

COUNCIL REPORT

***Happy Father's Day,
Happy Summer!***

Greetings from your Church Council.

First let me wish all the dads, in any way that may apply to you, a very Happy Father's Day.

Thank you to all the members that attended our congregation meeting last week and approved the major repairs and replacement of the roof and boiler. That work is already in the planning stages, and we hope to have it all completed before the preschool returns from summer vacation at the end of August. (See the following page for more details about the meeting.)



Church will still meet each and every Sunday; Sunday school is planning summer classes; there will be coffee hour and a cold drink afterwards in fellowship hall and Pastor John (Backe) will be here most Sundays.

We are planning our Congregational picnic and promotions for the Sunday School children on June 8th. We will have our Christmas in July service and Ice Cream Social on July 13th and save the date for Rally Day on Sept. 7th.

Thank you to Pastor John (Backe) for agreeing to be our coverage Pastor from May 1st to Dec. 31st, 2025. He will also be our Supply Pastor, as I said above, as well as be available for counseling, emergencies, and Pastoral Care as needed. Please contact Carla in the church office to schedule.

Pastor John is also leading adult bible study. . . check the bulletins for dates. They will be short on time but long on content. All are welcome!

Thank you to all that supported our Mother's Day Spring Sale. We netted over \$1000 and had a fabulous day of fellowship and service to our church.

Have a fabulous summer and please don't forget to keep your tithing current. Our bills do not take a vacation!

Thank you to ALL that keep 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

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CONGREGATION MEETING

In Case You Weren't Able to Be Present

Council Member Brett Bueher and Property Manager Leam McEvoy explained the work and costs projected for a new boiler and partial flat roof. Brett and Leam have worked tirelessly to meet with contractors and obtain estimates. The Congregation unanimously approved the work and expense for both. It is anticipated that this work will be done over the summer.



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

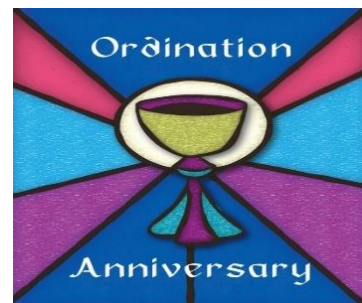
In addition, the Congregation was apprised of repair projects that are being studied, including the parking lot and Bell. Smaller projects (that do not require specific Congregation Approval) such as new hall furniture and refurbishment of the Sexton's apartment were also described. Thanks to Camille O'Garro for working on the furniture purchase and to Brett Bueher for painting the Sexton Apartment ceiling.

Thanks to the members of the Congregation who made a particular effort to attend this Special meeting!

ELCA METRO NY SYNOD ASSMEBLY

In May, Denise Tolles, St. Luke's Vice -President, attended the ELCA Metro NY Synod Assembly on Long Island. Katrina Foster, Pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in Greenpoint, Brooklyn was elected as the new Metro NY Synod Bishop. She brings particular experience in community work and assisting congregations. in their financial planning. Please keep the Rev. Foster in your prayers as she begins the important work of leading the NY Metro Synod.

A video was shown recognizing the anniversary of ordinations, including **50 years** for Pastor William Damrow, Pastor John Backe and Pastor Marvin Henk!



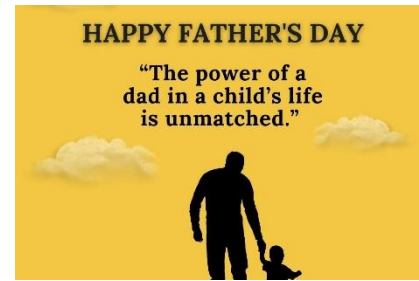
MEMBERSHIP ROLL

The ad hoc Membership Committee will meet on Monday, June 16th at 6p.m. to review the Membership Roll. The Congregation is reminded that the requirements for membership in the Church require receiving Holy Communion at least once a year and making a contribution of record.



HAPPY FATHER'S DAY HAPPY SUMMER from the Fellowship Committee

Blessings to all our "Dads"
Happy Summer, Happy June, July and August!



May 10th was our Mother's Day Spring Sale. We had fabulous vendors, raffles, prizes, baked goods and a café. What we didn't have enough of was shoppers! There was a big New Rochelle event happening that may have hurt, but we didn't even get enough of our own members there. We need to know why. How do we get our members to come and support our events and our church? We are working hard to keep events and activities to bring in the community. But I'm afraid we aren't reaching our own members. If you have any ideas, please reach out to us and let us know.

Is there something you would be interested in? Is there something we should be doing but are not?
Do you have any suggestions?

June 8th is our end of the year Congregation Picnic. It is also Sunday School Promotions.



We would love all to attend and would appreciate it if you would bring something to share. A potato salad, Cole slaw, any other salad... a dessert? We have Burgers, Hotdogs, Veggie Burgers and Mixed Kale salad.

Please plan to attend!!!! Again, all are welcome, bring your family or your friends!

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!

Thank you to Pastor John for agreeing to be our new Coverage Pastor. Pastor John will be leading Bible Study on certain Sundays. Please check the bulletin. We are so grateful to 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 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

End of Year Congregation Picnic/BBQ

Hosted by the Sunday School



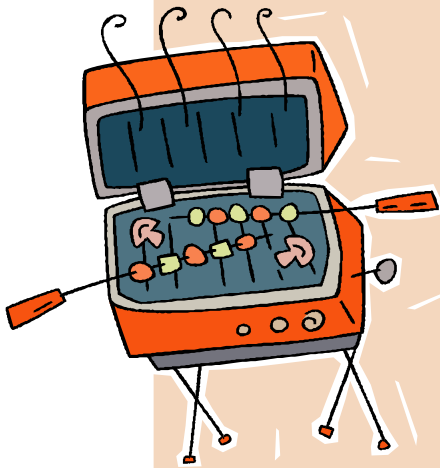
*Please join us for our end of year celebration
All are WELCOME! Please rsvp..*

June 8th at 11am

immediately following service in Fellowship Hall and Backyard

RSVP to:

**Dawn at mmcevoy33@aol.com
or use sign up in Narthex.**



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

HAPPY FATHERS' DAY!
from the Sunday School



Happy Fathers' Day to all the fathers, dads, grandpas, uncles, godfathers, stepdads, etc.! God bless you all!

Thank you to all that supported our Spring Sale on May 10th.
It was a great day!



We will be having Sunday school over the summer... Vacation Bible School Mode. It will still begin at 10am and end at approximately 10:45 when service ends. Please invite your friends and neighbors. We will be using fun interactive games and crafts to learn the Good News! We will cover many stories from the Bible. Each Sunday will end with a snack in the fellowship hall. Please let us know if your child(ren) will be joining so we have enough supplies.

ALSO, while you are sharing that, Share that 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 and @ slnr.org

LOVE and blessings to you all!

Yours in Christ,
Dawn McEvoy – Superintendent
Email: mmcevoy33@aol.com
Karen Fontecchio – Asst. Superintendent
Traci Daniele – Treasurer
Teachers – Melissa McEvoy, Shari Taylor,
Jacob Kuligowski, Vicky McEvoy



PICTURES FROM OUR SPRING SALE

HAPPY, SMILING FACES ALL AROUND!!!



COOKING FOR HOPE

May's Hope Cook Team, Angelika Ridulfo, Joan Bast, Leam McEvoy, Jennifer Archer and Walter Glatz shopped and prepared a delicious dinner on **Saturday** (because of the Congregation Meeting on Sunday), May 17th. Thanks to the Team for the special effort!

HELP St. Luke's Church feed our community!

June 8th – Food Drive For HOPE!!



***HOPE's Food Pantry is one of the largest in Westchester County.
HOPE's Community Kitchen serves over 100 meals a night.***

HOPE specifically needs canned Tuna, Peanut Butter,
Bags of Black Beans and Cereal (ALL kinds)

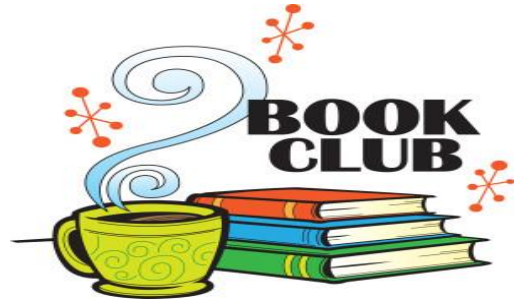
The collection will be in the Fellowship Hall on June 8th, during our end of year picnic.
Please give what you can. Every bit helps!

**For more information on, or to donate your time to, HOPE Community Services,
please see their website: <https://www.hopecommunityservices.org/food-services>**

BOOK CLUB CORNER

St. Luke's Book Club meets monthly at Barnes and Noble in Scarsdale. We enjoy lunch and fellowship with friends and an always interesting and lively discussion of our current read. At our June get together (on Thursday, June 26th at 12:30), we will discuss *THE MARRIAGE PORTRAIT* By Maggie O'Farrell. Everyone is welcome to join us! Speak to Jennifer Archer or any member of the Book Club.

Book Club does not meet in July and August but will resume in September. Meanwhile, over the summer we will read *HEART LAMP*, by Banu Mushtag, the 2025 Booker International Prize winner. In its twelve stories Banu Mushtag exquisitely captures the everyday lives of women and girls in Muslim communities in southern India. Published originally in the Kannada language between 1990 and 2023, praised for their dry and gentle humor, these portraits of family and community tensions have garnered both censure from conservative quarters as well India's most prestigious literary awards.



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

JUNE

Birthdays

6/1 Madeline Buehrer
6/3 Kyle Jantzen
Karl Jantzen
6/8 Steffany O'Neill
6/12 Jessica Bose
Jane Kimber

6/14 Nadia Dassler
6/16 Allison Link
6/19 Patricia Fredericks
6/22 Christian Shiels
6/24 John Amato
6/27 Donald Doerr
6/29 Bruce Kuligowski

Anniversaries

6/2 Martin & Julia Ungewitter
6/17 Kris & Stacey Haymon
6/19 Brett Buehrer & Dana Diersen-Buehrer
6/20 Michael & Steffany O'Neill

6/25 Peter & Resha Conroy
6/26 Gabrielle & Vincent Tamburro
6/28 Karen & George Jantzen

JULY

Birthdays

7/2	Trina Lenz	7/13	Resha Conroy
7/7	Lindsey Kuligowski	7/16	Samantha Mitze
7/8	Kristine Kuligowski	7/17	Cayden Shellukindo
	Barbara Bersito	7/18	Herbert Doerr
7/9	Teresa Montalvo	7/19	Ryan Tupper
7/11	Benjamin Blake	7/21	Michael Amato
7/12	Christopher Santizo	7/28	Henry Doerr
		7/31	Walter Mitze

Anniversaries

7/4	Robert & Elizabeth Brent	7/16	Joe Triolo & Jeniece Oliveras-Triolo
7/14	Rosalind & Ernest Wallace	7/24	Corinne & Matthew Blake

AUGUST

Birthdays

8/6	Ernest Wallace	8/18	Bob Lepple
8/8	Lorraine Helfer	8/28	Linda Skillen
8/12	Camille Brock	8/29	Joy Mitchell
8/13	Patrice Mitchell		Jacob Damrow
8/14	Faith Bissinger		

Anniversaries

8/7	Jessica & Robert Horn	8/17	Peter & Martha Johnson
8/8	Alan & Karen Fontecchio	8/18	Rev. Dr. William & Pat Damrow
	Lydia & Frank Bersito	8/26	Steven & Gail Olsen
	Herbert & Mary Doerr	8/28	John & Claudia Rubicco
8/10	Melbourne & Renee Taylor		



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

Jennifer Archer

Nancy Sigler

Art Rankis

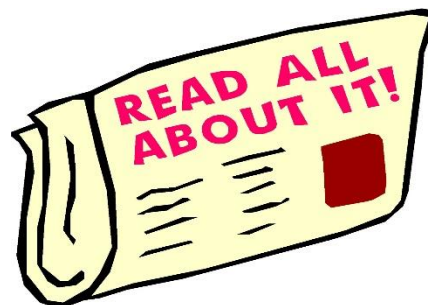
Ernest & Rosalind Wallace

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".

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH – JUNE 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1- 10a-Worship with Rev. Backe 10a-Sunday School 11a-Coffee Hour, Host: Church Council</p>	2	3	4	5 Setup-Preschool Graduation	6 9:15a-Preschool Graduation 7p-Boy Scouts BBQ	7- 9:30a-A.A. Men's Group Sensory Taekwon-Do-TBD Congregation Picnic Setup
<p>8- 10a-Worship with Rev. Backe 10a-Sun.Sch. Promotion Exercises 11a-Coffee Hour, Host: Sunday School 11a-Congregation Picnic; Hope Food Drive</p>	9	10	11	12	13 7:15p- Boy Scouts	14 9:30a-A.A. Men's Group Sensory Taekwon-Do-TBD
<p>15 Father's Day 10a-Worship with Rev. John Backe Blessing of Fathers 11a-Coffee Hour, Host: Altar Guild 11a-Worship Committee Mtg. 11a-Cooking for HOPE</p>	16 10a-HOPE Food Pickup 6p-Ad Hoc Committee 7p-Church Council	17	18	19 Juneteenth Day Office Closed	20 7:15p-Boy Scouts	21 9:30a-A.A. Men's Group Sensory Taekwon-Do-TBD
<p>22 - 10a-Worship with Rev. John Backe 11a-Coffee Hour, Host: Choir 11:15a-Bible Study with Rev. Backe</p>	23	24	25	26 12:30p-Book Club at Barnes & Noble	27	28 9:30a-A.A. Men's Group Sensory Taekwon-Do-TBD
<p>29 10a-Worship with Rev. Diane Wildow 11a-Coffee Hour, Host: Sunday School</p>	30	<p><u>All Sundays</u> 9a-Choir Rehearsal 10a-Choir 11a-Coffee Hour</p> <p>June 8 -Sunday School-Last Day</p>	<p>July 13 –Christmas in July Service & Ice Cream Social</p> <p>July 21-Council Mtg.-TBD</p>	<p>Sept. 7 –Rally Day- Sunday School Resumes</p>	<p><u>Groups Resume:</u> Sept.: Boy Scouts & Book Club</p> <p>Oct. Basketball Group</p>	