
St. Luke's Voice

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

November 2025

The mission of St. Luke's Lutheran Church is to share the good news of Jesus through word and sacrament, serving, teaching, and welcoming our community.

St. Luke's Lutheran Church

95 Eastchester Road
New Rochelle, NY 10801

Rev. John Backe
917-795-2392

Sunday Worship: 10 A.M.

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

Visit us on Facebook!

Newsletter

Editor: Pat Fredericks

BUILD US UP, LORD PART TWO

In November we move closer to the end of the year, liturgically and on the calendar. We also continue our focus on **Stewardship**. During October, we featured **Financial Stewardship**, listing how much a church costs, with some major expenses in blurbs in the Sunday bulletins. We distributed pledge cards, asking you to return them with your intention of giving in 2026. We will gather and bless those during the Harvest Home and Hymn Sing celebration on Sunday, November 23.

Financial support is just one aspect of **Stewardship**. There are other ways to support our ministry and mission at St. Luke through the year. In non-profit organizations, there is a line item in the income report called "in kind donations". This can mean several things, most often it is a calculation of the value of volunteer hours served.

We often take that for granted in a church. We might not feel motivated to join in when things seem to be going OK. Someone might think, "Sunday worship happens, coffee hour goes on, I guess there is no need for more help."

I did a quick calculation (in my head) of how much we might report if we listed the value of "in kind" donations. I'd report somewhere between \$500,000 and \$800,000. This includes the work of the Church Council, the Altar Guild and the many committees. We can increase that number.

I want you to consider the ways in which you could make a "pledge" for 2026. There are so many opportunities. Everyone can **pray for St. Luke**. Brighten our worship by singing in the **choir**. Take a turn as a **lector** or **greeter**. Join in **cooking** for Hope Community Services. There is so many more opportunities. Talk to me and learn about the ways **you** can add to your overall **Stewardship**. This is what we mean when we pray with thanksgiving for our "time, talents and possessions".

MESSAGE FROM ANOTHER PASTOR

Dear Friends in Christ,

Sometimes churches decide to strongly endorse politicians, both on the left and the right. This gives the impression that all churches are aligned along political lines. This is unfortunate, but understandable. In particular, the present intensity of Christian faith expressed within the ruling party is almost syncretic, causing some confusion. It may be encouraging and grounding for you if I provide clarity about what our own church is about.

Creeds: We hold to the creeds. Read them.

Faith alone. There are no rituals that replace simple trust in God, so we like to pray.

Repentance alone. The acknowledgement of failure is important for an honest relationship with God.

Grace alone. We don't place any weight on our conduct for meriting God's love, which is not conditioned.

Cross alone. We mistrust the allure of power and wealth. The real heart of God, suffering love, is revealed on the cross.

Scripture alone-Word Alone. We don't worship the Bible, but the bible points us to Christ, who we do worship. The Bible is the source and norm for our very lives, but we don't find God's will only from individual verses. The different books of the Bible interpret each other. We read the Bible as a whole to extrapolate God's will in each context.

Worship. We have a tradition and a strength in worshipping with liturgy and singing.

Learning. We value education and science. We believe in moral and spiritual formation for all ages.

Politics. The Lutheran church has learned the hard way that cozying up to any political authority comprises the church.

Creation. We are responsible for stewarding God's earth.

Justice: We care about fairness and equity in society, which is a powerful biblical theme.

Women: Women are leaders.

Marriage: Marriage is good for society and I would like for it to be available to all couples who desire it.

Immigration: We have a history of competence in refugee care and health care around the world.

Doubt: We are honest about the experience of spiritual doubt.

At its best, the Lutheran church should stand WITH the world as it is, in its goodness and beauty and its confusion and cruelty. In these embattled times, we call to its "grieving and broken nature, to its misplaced meaning," as my new favorite songwriter says.

So, in conclusion, are you in the right church?

The cross makes peace with our past; and the resurrection recreates our future.

The above is reprinted from St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Manhattan

HAPPY & BLESSED THANKSGIVING from your CHURCH

Thankful to God for this Church Family and all of you that are part of it.

Our Gratitude Brunch was Oct 25th. Thank you to Cathie for your many years of serving as Stewardship Chair and to Karen for stepping up into this position. Great job! Traci Daniele did a fabulous job speaking about giving your time, talents, and treasures. Thank you to Leam, Bill, Joan for cooking and serving and Lydia, Julia, and Cathy for your delish additions to our meal. Lydia brought rosolia, which was a cold dish from Estonia that our family grew up on. We added a few new fans!



October 17-19th was our family retreat at Koinonia. Such a wonderful time to spend with our Church family. Melissa led a wonderful Bible Study. If you have never attended before, please consider it next year. We had a great weekend of Fun, Faith and Fellowship!

So many exciting things happening at St. Luke's, please see flyers and bulletin for info....



November 8th is our Holiday Boutique. We have many new vendors, will have Photos with Santa, face painting, great food cooking in the café, delish baked goods and of course rummage and raffles galore! PLEASE sign up for an hour or two or just make time to come shop, eat, and be part of our St. Luke's Family Fundraiser! PLEASE come support us!

November 23rd is Harvest Home Sunday, Loyalty Sunday and we will have a visit from the Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Nicole Schwalbe, who will join us for worship and coffee hour, then will meet with the council.

December 6th, is our Annual Budget meeting. We must have 30 members to have a quorum. PLEASE put on your calendar.

December 13th, Julia and Iryna will lead us in a second Christmas Concert. See flyer elsewhere in this issue. PLEASE join us! It will be another fabulous event. Invite all your friends.

Our congregation Christmas Party and Pageant will be December 21st.

Christmas Eve we will again have 2 services, 4pm and 8pm. Pastor Backe will be leading both. We are again adding the earliest service so all members of St. Luke's can celebrate and worship on Christmas Eve!

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 Backe for his continuing service as our Coverage Pastor, and to he and Pastor Mark Brown, who have continued to lead us in worship every week. We are so grateful to you. They will be leading us well into April and for Easter!

(Article continued next page)

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.

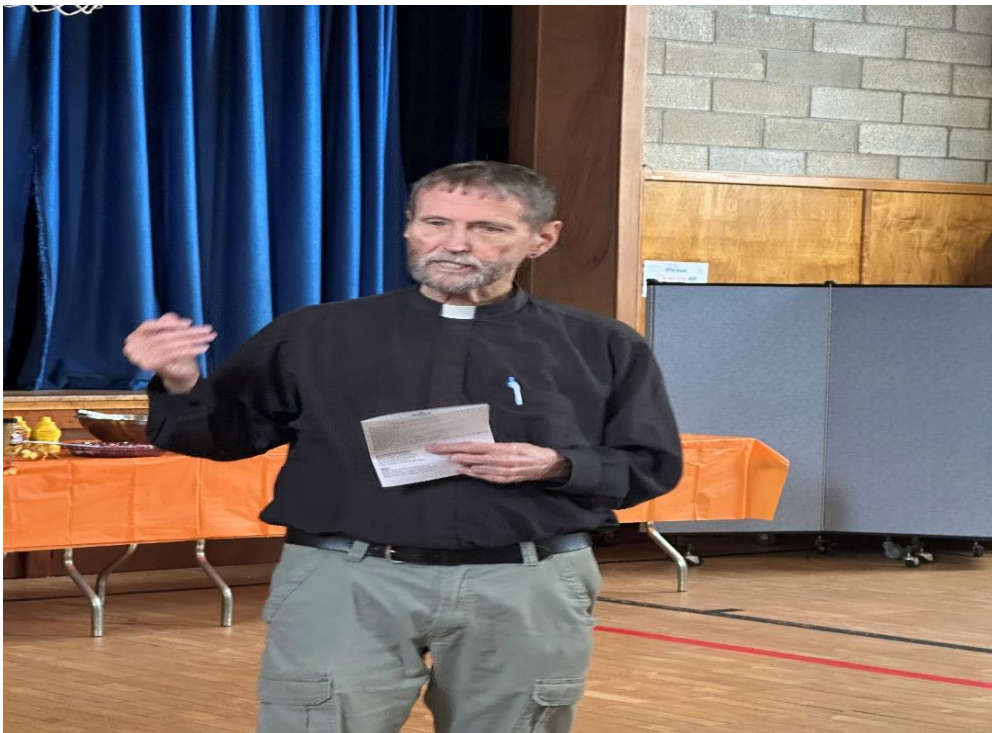
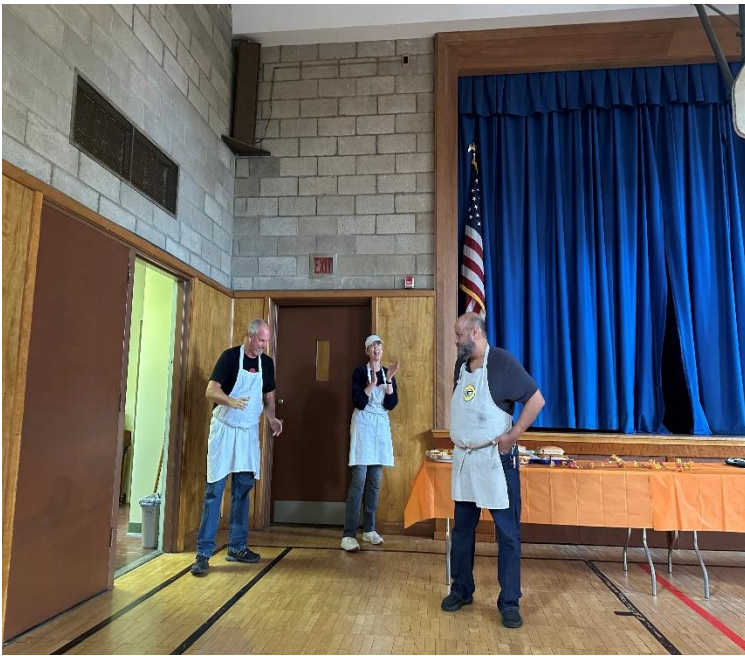
Yours In Christ

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

SOME PICTURES FROM THE FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE AND THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

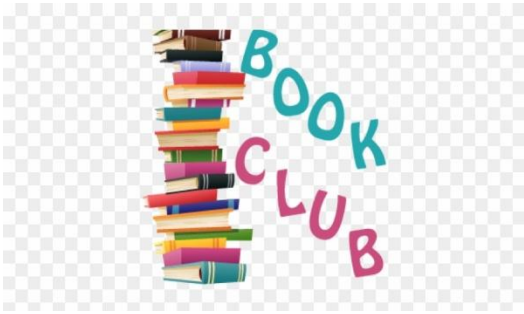




BOOK CLUB CORNER

There never yet have been, nor are there now, too many good books.

--- Martin Luther



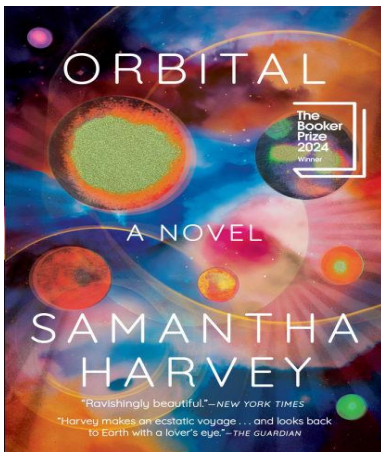
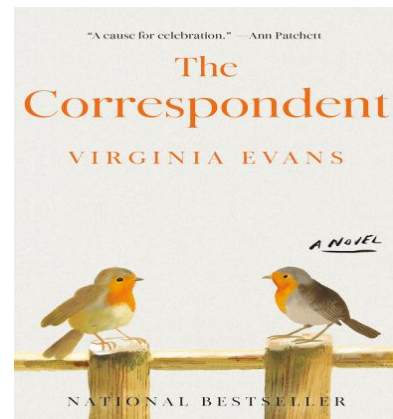
St. Luke's Book Club met October 23, at Barnes & Noble Bookstore in Scarsdale. We discussed the novel *AUDITION* by Katie Kitamura. The book was inspired by the headline, "A stranger told me he was my son." We debated how this initial premise informed our understanding of the novel and the complexities of parenting and family. We also focused on the themes of truth, reality and performance. Members shared favorite passages and quotations. We concluded by examining the author's

intention to create a book that was "a little bit like a David Lynch film." We noted elements of surrealism, dreamlike sequences, and a unique blend of horror, mystery and drama.

Our book club meets on Thursdays, once a month, at 12:30 P.M. (Barnes & Noble). We are devoted and enthusiastic readers. We welcome new members! Please consider joining us! You may contact Jennifer Archer at ktembo@aol.com for further information or call St. Luke's church office at 914-632-2116.

Our next two books are:

November ---- *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans
(Meeting date: Nov. 20.)



December --- *Orbital* by Samantha Harvey
(Meeting date: Dec. 18.)

ST. LUKE'S COOKS FOR HOPE

Our merry band of three organized 18 trays of food for HOPE. Thank you, Bill Rodriguez and Walter Glatz, for all your help and hard work on Sunday, October 19th.



Special thanks to Joan Bast and Bill Rodriguez who did the shop for October's Hope Cook, and, with the help of Walt Glatz, got the entire Hope Prep/Cook accomplished. Quite an undertaking!!

The next Hope Cook is Sunday November 16th. We expect our team will be reassembled to give Joan, Bill and Walt a hand!

And we welcome all who can pitch in!



St. Luke's Lutheran Church – 95 Eastchester Road, New Rochelle, NY www.SLNR.org

Holiday Boutique

Saturday, November 8, 2025

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

St. Luke's Church

Kick off the holiday season with a fun-filled day for the whole family!

Raffle Prizes GALORE!!!

Faithful Treasures – Rummage Sale

Unique Vendors

Avon~ Tastefully Simple~Mary Kay~Bari Joy Design~Ancient Brew

Coilygirlcrafts~Mimi's Treasure Chest~Jewelry~

Happy Everything~Handmade Embroidery

 Photos with Santa 10-12 pm

Face Painting & Balloon creations "Penny's Party Place"

 Bake Sale Goodies & Christ Kringle Booth

 Christmas Café

FREE ADMISSION ~ ALL ARE WELCOME!!



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.

PRAYER LIST UPDATES: We are revising our Prayer List. We will remove names after a month or unless instructed otherwise. If you have a name to add, contact the church office.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

11/4 Brett Buehrer
11/5 Kasandra Triolo
Colin O'Garro
11/6 Irene Breen
11/7 Corey Shelukindo

11/9 Traci Daniele
11/11 Steven Olsen, Jr.
Timothy Guido
11/15 Mason Dassler
11/21 Martin Ungewitter

11/29 Alexandra Archer-Palmeri

ANNIVERSARIES

11/4 Walter & Elizabeth Mitze
11/6 Alexandra & Joseph Palmeri
11/10 Henry & Christina Bast, Jr.
11/20 Susan & Christopher Forsberg

**Don't forget: Daylight Savings Time
Ends Saturday night/
Sunday morning,
November 1- 2
Turn your clocks BACK 1 hour!**



The background is a vibrant red with a complex pattern of white and gold musical notes, snowflakes, and stars. The notes are scattered across the page, with some larger ones on the left side. The snowflakes are intricate and vary in size, adding a festive winter feel. The stars are small and bright, interspersed among the other elements.

St. Luke's Church presents

"Holiday Happiness"
a musical extravaganza

December 13, 2025

Featuring

Julia Breannetta Simpson

with her

Rhythm & Jazz Ensemble

Mario E. Sprouse, Musical Director

Also on the program will be the incomparable

Iryna Arbatska, Pianist/Organist

St. Luke's Choir, led by Iryna Arbatska, Director

The night ends with a Holiday Sing-along.

\$10 per person admission includes
Coffee, Tea, Soft Drinks, Hors D'oeuvres and Desserts

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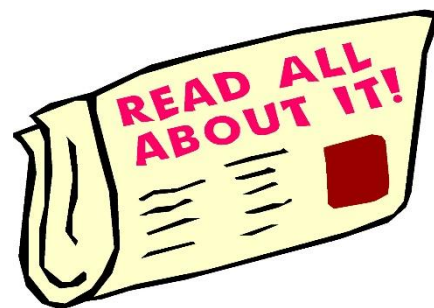
Thank you to the Patrons of St. Luke's Voice – 2025

Jennifer Archer
Art Rankis

Nancy Sigler
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".



The deadline for submission
of information and articles
for the next issue, which will cover
December and January,
will be Friday, November 21st.