

St. Luke's Voice

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

March 2026

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

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

This has been a winter to remember, not as bad as some we have experienced, but bad enough that we are likely to reference it at some point in the future. We had two Sundays when the county declared a "state of emergency" and we couldn't gather for worship, and other days that were terrifically cold, but now we sense a new beginning, a warming, in the weather and of our opportunities for mission and ministry.

We will continue our Lenten Vesper services with Bible study every Wednesday at 7 p.m. until Holy Week. The full schedule for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter are elsewhere in this newsletter.

There is another sense of renewal and new life. We are actively engaged, in a beginning phase, of conversations with our synod leadership of what shape the life and ministry of St. Luke's can take. We will be talking, dreaming and planning. There will be room for everyone at the table to share their hopes and ideas. There will be opportunities for sharing and engagement as those plans take form. Everyone is invited to be part of this new future. Stay tuned, stay connected. I had a friend who used to say, in situations like ours, GOD IS ALIVE AND WELL!! AND SOMETHING'S GOING ON!! That's true for St. Luke's. That's Good News for Easter and beyond.

SNOW AND STEWARDSHIP

What does snow have to do with stewardship? Not being able to gather for worship twice in February had several consequences.

First, we missed the opportunity to sing, pray, and celebrate together around the Lord's table. We didn't share at the coffee hour after, to catch up with each other, as well.

The second, more concrete, impact is that we missed two weeks of offerings. We encourage everyone to maintain their giving according to their pledge and perhaps, consider an additional gift to help with winter costs like heating, snow removal, etc.

CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

Lenten Blessings, Happy Spring and Palm Sunday!

Sending much appreciation to all that attended our Annual Meeting, Feb 8th and a sincere thank you again to our retiring Treasurer, Steve Olsen, after serving for the past 19 years. We are so grateful for your time and talents and dedication!

We are so excited to welcome our new council member Susanne Kuligowski, our new Treasurer Traci Daniele and our two new Financial Secretaries, Nancy Sigler and Susanne Kuligowski. We continue to be a busy working Council doing all we can to help with the preservation and furtherance of our beloved church. On that note, Pastor Nicole Schwalbe, Asst to the Bishop, will be joining us for worship on Palm Sunday and again meeting with the council about our transition forward. We are working diligently to meet all criteria requested by the Synod.

Thank you to Pastor Backe for leading us in worship as well as Lenten Vespers on Wednesday nights. Please come worship with us.

Church Volunteers



Iryna is working with the choir for Easter and is always looking for new voices. I've heard a lot of you and you sound beautiful. Share that with our church. We are looking for new Lectors and Communion Assistants, please see Susanne Kuligowski if you are interested. Same for Ushers, please see Denise Tolles join her team.

It takes a village, or a congregation, to make our church successful, every hour counts. Your time, your talents and your treasurers are all meaningful to us.

Thank you for all of those things.

Your church council,
Dawn McEvoy, President



CELEBRATING 150 YEARS

1869 - 2019

LENT & EASTER SCHEDULE

We are moving through Lent and looking forward to Easter. Listed below you will find our schedule of worship opportunities. You are welcome to attend any or all of these services.

2/25, 3/4, 11, 18 and 25 Vespers with Bible study; all at 7 p.m.

March 29 Palm Sunday 10 a.m.



April 5 Easter 10 a.m.

BOOK CLUB CORNER

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

--- Martin Luther

UPCOMING TITLES and AUTHORS

FEBRUARY --- *HARLEM RHAPSODY*

by **VICTORIA CHRISTOPHER MURRAY**

MARCH --- *QUEENS OF CRIME* by MARIE BENEDICT

APRIL --- *ISOLA* by ALLEGRA GOODMAN

MAY --- *SOME BRIGHT NOWHERE* by ANN PACKER

JUNE --- *TELL ME EVERYTHING* by ELIZABETH STROUT

SUMMER READ: *THE LONELINESS OF SONIA AND SUNNY* by KIRAN DESAI



St. Luke's Book Club continues to meet monthly at Barnes & Noble in Scarsdale. We enjoy sharing lunch together as we review and discuss our current selection. Books can be comforting, astonishing and illuminating, changing the way we feel about and interact with the world around us.

We welcome new members! Please consider joining us!

One book is enough, but a thousand books is not too many.

--- Martin Luther

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

Our committee is responsible for Fellowship Events, either alone or in conjunction with other committees.

The pancake supper was hosted by the Fellowship Committee. Thank you to all that attended, it was a school winter recess so unfortunately attendance was low. But we had a fabulous meal of Pancakes, Sausage and Bacon. Thanks to our cooks and kitchen crew Leam McEvoy, Bill Rodriguez and Joan Bast. Also to all that helped to set up and clean up.

With Easter coming up and hopefully Spring weather, we are looking forward to our Annual Women's Retreat at Koinonia. Please email me if you plan to attend so we can reserve your rooms. See flyer attached for dates and prices. All adult women are welcome.



We are looking to host a Sunday breakfast or lunch soon so be on the lookout for that.

We are also trying to plan a date for the Spring Sale.

We thank all of those that have helped and supported us in this last year, there are too many to mention but you know who you are. We appreciate all of you and can't thank you enough.

Thank you to Carla, our Church secretary, Steven Spady and Greg Hines, our custodians, who do so much for us. Pastor Backe and Pastor Brown, thank you both, for leading us in Worship this year.

This year we increased our community outreach in multiple ways; the greatest being joining the Chamber of Commerce and advertising more on social media. We look forward to continuing all our events and activities, as well as creating new ones, while reaching out to the community, to celebrate our church and our congregation in 2026!

God's Blessings

Yours In Christ, Dawn McEvoy, Chair

The Fellowship Committee

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

And again, thank you to our fabulous Kitchen help, Leam, Joan Bast and Bill Rodriguez.



St. Luke's Lutheran Church

Annual Women's Retreat to Koinonia

April 10-12, 2025

Faith, Fellowship, Fun

\$305 Single, \$195 Double, per person (includes 5 meals and all activities.)

~ Massages available for additional fee ~

RESERVE YOUR ROOMS TODAY!

Contact Dawn McEvoy for more info or to reserve your room

mmcevoy33@aol.com or call 347-604-3969

ALL are welcome!



Visit Koinoniany.org for more info on Koinonia.

Located 165 Lakeview Drive Road Highland Lake, NY 12743

SUNDAY SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

Welcome SPRING???? Lol, as I write this newsletter there is a blizzard outside my window and already over a foot of snow! Hope the children enjoyed their snow day!

Thank you to the children, staff and congregation for once again making this year's annual Souper Bowl Sunday Collection for ELCA World Hunger a HUGE Success. We raised \$1400!

We missed a few Sundays for Holidays, Winter Break and SNOW but we will be back as we are safely able to. This month we will be practicing for our Palm Sunday Passion Reading, which will replace the usual Easter Pageant. All children will have a part.

Easter Sunday, we will still be hosting our Easter Egg Hunt, so be sure to meet us in the fellowship hall after church. Your cousins or other guests are invited as well!

The Sunday School staff consists of:

Superintendent - Dawn McEvoy

Assistant Superintendent - Karen Fontecchio

Treasurer - Traci Daniele

Teachers – Melissa McEvoy, Shari Taylor,

Jacob Kuligowski and Vicky McEvoy



We continue to teach and share the Good News in fun and educational ways.

The Sunday School children, small yet mighty! They are the future of this church!

Our Sunday school is self-sustaining through your contributions. You can help to support the Sunday school by using your child's Sunday school offering envelope every Sunday or you can just write us a check. Made payable to St. Luke's Sunday School. Your contributions enable us to maintain a high standard of excellence. Your blessed gifts are always appreciated. Thank you to those that have contributed. You have sustained our mission this year.

Thank you to our dedicated staff, the congregation, the parents and families.

We are always looking to increase Church and Sunday School membership. We have started to have more of a community presence and will work to increase that every year. If you have any ideas, please let us know. ALL are always welcome!

Respectfully Submitted, Dawn McEvoy – Superintendent

ST. LUKE'S COOKS FOR "HOPE"



Members of St. Luke's continue to support Hope Community Services by preparing a meal once a month. Because of February holidays, there was no cook Sunday in February. The next Hope Cook is **Sunday, March 15th**. All invited to help! Many hands make light work!!

AROUND THE PARISH



church office.

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

MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

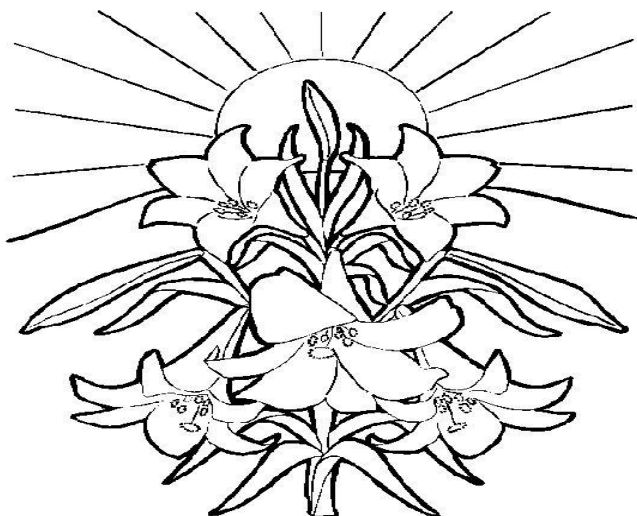
3/3	Melissa McEvoy Jeannette Carlson Fernita Ross	3/17	Amy Amato-Bromberg
3/6	Nancy Sigler Joseph Triolo	3/18	Daniel Brisson
3/10	Adam Brent	3/21	Lydia Bersito
3/11	Mark Fontecchio	3/23	Scott Fredericks
3/14	Jacob Kuligowski	3/24	Lori Walker
3/15	Edmond O'Garro Steven Olsen	3/26	Marissa Wirak
		3/27	Donna Elmer Stacey Haymon
		3/28	Patricia Damrow

Anniversaries

3/25 Lynda & Anthony Pasqua

Daylight Saving Time begins the weekend of March 7 - 8. Remember To turn your clocks AHEAD 1 hour Saturday night/Sunday morning.





The Easter season is fast approaching. If you would like to contribute to the beautification of the sanctuary by donating \$35.00 toward the Easter lily fund, please use the form to make your reservation.

Names of donors and loved ones will appear in the Easter Bulletin.

Donation for flowers: \$35.00

Deadline Date: March 22, 2026

EASTER LILIES

In memory of _____

or in honor of _____

From _____

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

Patron List for 2026

Thank you to the Patrons of St. Luke's Voice – 2026

Jennifer Archer
Alexandra Palmeri

Art Rankis

Aija Sears
Nancy Sigler



**The deadline for submission
of information and articles
for the March issue,
will be Monday, March 23rd**

St. Luke's Lutheran Church – March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 Lent II 10a-Worship Service with Rev. Brown 10a-Sunday School Coffee Hour, Host: Sunday School</p>	<p>2 7p-Basketball Group</p>	<p>3 6:30-8:30p-Basketball Group</p>	<p>4 7p-Lenten Vespers with Bible Study</p>	<p>5 6:30-8:30p-Basketball Group</p>	<p>6 7p-Boy Scouts</p>	<p>7 9:30a-A.A. Men's Group Mtg. 12p-Senory Teakwon-Do Daylight Savings Time Begins. Turn clocks ahead 1 hour</p>
<p>8 Lent III 10a-Worship Service with Rev. Backe 10a-Sunday School 11a-Coffee Hour, Host: Altar Guild Daylight Saving Time Begins</p>	<p>9 7p-Basketball Group</p>	<p>10 6:30-8:30p-Basketball Group</p>	<p>11 7p-Lenten Vespers with Bible Study</p>	<p>12 6:30-8:30p-Basketball Group</p>	<p>13 7:15p-Boy Scouts</p>	<p>14 9:30a-A.A. Men's Group Mtg. 12p-Senory Teakwon-Do</p>
<p>15 Lent IV 10a-Worship Service with Rev. Brown 10a-Sunday School 11a-Coffee Hour, Host: Choir</p>	<p>16 10a-Hope Food Pickup 7p-Basketball Group last Practice</p>	<p>17 6:30-8:30p-Basketball Group</p>	<p>18 7p-Lenten Vespers with Bible Study</p>	<p>19 6:30-8:30p-Basketball Group</p>	<p>20 7:15p-Boy Scouts</p>	<p>21 9:30a-A.A. Men's Group Mtg. 12p-Senory Teakwon-Do</p>
<p>22 Lent V 10a-Worship with Rev. Backe 10a-Sunday School 11a-Coffee Hour, Host: Social Ministry 11a-Cooking for Hope</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 6:30-8:30p-Basketball Group</p>	<p>25 7p-Lenten Vespers with Bible Study</p>	<p>26 12:30p- Book Club 6:30-8:30p-Basketball Group</p>	<p>27 7:15p-Boy Scouts</p>	<p>28 9:30a-A.A. Men's Group Mtg. 12p-Senory Teakwon-Do</p>
<p>29 Passion/Palm Sunday 10a-Worship with Pastor Nicole Schwalbe, Asst. to Bishop NO Sunday School 11a-Coffee Hour, Host: Fellowship Transition Mtg. after worship with Pastor Nicole Schwalbe</p>	<p>30 7p-Council Mtg.</p>	<p>31</p>	<p><u>All Sundays</u> 9a-Choir Rehearsal 10a-Choir 10a-Sunday School 11a-Coffee Hour</p>	<p>April 2-Maundy Thursday- 7pm</p> <p>April 3 – Good Friday- 7pm</p> <p>April 5 – Easter- 10am</p>		