



# The Voice

of St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
145 Prospect Street, Farmingdale, New York 11735

The Rev. Edward G. Barnett, S.T.S., Pastor  
The Rev. Rodney L. Eberhardt, S.T.S., Pastor Emeritus  
[www.stlukesfarmingdale.org](http://www.stlukesfarmingdale.org)

## A Message from Pastor Barnett



This is my first "pastor's column" for our newly revised/renewed newsletter, "The Voice." We're trying to update it a bit by making it more frequent (six times a year versus the previous four) and more attuned to our seasons of parish life here at St. Luke's.

I believe that by this time, most of our members wherever they/you may be, are aware that I'm the new pastor here having arrived on sight on the 28th of July and being formally installed on the 20th of October, both of 2024. I've enjoyed my first months here as hectic as they were. The toughest, unexpected issue that I had to deal with was the resignation of our previous secretary and the hiring of a new one. (I believe Rita has an article in this issue introducing herself.) Now that things are re-steadying in the office, I can turn my attention to the more bread and butter issues of my ministry which is, namely....: YOU.

I really won't "know" St. Luke's until I've met the people who make up St. Luke's. I started by passing around a clipboard and asking for names and cell numbers of people who attend the 8:30 liturgy. I'll be starting to call people up and ask to meet to sit down for a cup of coffee and conversation. This will allow myself to know you better and vice versa. Please let's not wait until a tragedy like a funeral or unexpected hospitalization occurs. Getting to know people in a casual and relaxed atmosphere really helps me in my work as your pastor. I'm not saying that there's any specific thing that I get out of these meetings, rather there's a sense of the Holy Spirit leading me in a general way to know who you are.

In Luke 10, Jesus sends out the 72. He tells them to enter into houses and visit with them there, perhaps have a meal. He says to greet the house with His Peace. Now, I don't necessarily need to come to your house and you definitely don't have to feed me. However, I believe that Jesus' words here are helpful indicators about visiting and getting to know people in the Congregation.

May God grant us a wonderful 2025 here at St. Luke's! Great to be with you.



## SAVE the DATE

ST. LUKE'S 54th FALL FESTIVAL  
and OKTOBERFEST  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4th - 10am - 4pm

It's nine months away!!! We are always looking for volunteers to help with creating crafts. Crafters should begin in February. If interested, please contact Nancy Wohlsen at 516-978-7126 or Ellen Tarello at 516-694-0545.



Want to keep your thoughtful giving, reduce paper and eliminate some check writing each week or month? Using the VENMO App is an easy way to forward your weekly/monthly giving donations directly from your designated checking account electronically to our church account. Just go into the App store on your cell phone, download VENMO, search and accept St. Luke's as your recipient (you will note our church steeple in the bubble).

THE VOICE - via email: We are hoping to get more families to sign up to receive the newsletter via email. Not only do you receive it before those who get it in the mail, you get it in color and you are also saving the church money. Every penny saved helps. Please send your email to [secretary@stlukesfarmingdale.org](mailto:secretary@stlukesfarmingdale.org), call the church office or drop a note in the offering plate. DEADLINE FOR NEXT VOICE: The Voice is printed approximately every two months. The next issue will go out in March. If you have something to contribute please send your article and pictures, via email, to [cheryllparisi@gmail.com](mailto:cheryllparisi@gmail.com) or get in touch with Carol Manganaro at [camsev@aol.com](mailto:camsev@aol.com).

# COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Happy New Year to all! It was an eventful 2024 we bid farewell to one and we were blessed to conclude with our new Pastor leading us through a beautiful Advent and Christmas Season. Many thanks to all who contributed their time and talents: Altar Guild, Choirs & Ringers, Confirmation students, Deacons, Fellowship committee, Office staff, Property committee, Readers, Sunday School staff, Ushers and Worship assistants. Many hands, voices and hours go into preparing the music, decorations, events of tree lighting, Christmas Pageant, Lessons and Carols and Angel ballet to enhance our worship experience. We are truly blessed here at St Luke's.

Now on to what 2025 has in store for us. Our annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 9th following the 10:00 AM service. This is our Congregation's opportunity to review 2024's annual report which includes committee reports, annual statistics and 2024 financial report and the proposed 2025 Budget to be voted on for approval. It is an important responsibility for us to stay informed and participate in voting on our annual budget as this is what allows us to continue the Mission of Saint Luke's as we are ever changing and growing in God's service. Please make every effort to attend, ask questions, contribute and vote.

## Prime Timers Luncheon

Hear ye hear ye!!!!

When: January 22nd

What: Ballades and Blues with Bob Baumann & Ben Claase

Bring your music and songs from the 1930's through the 1970's including music from: Jay Ungar, Bob Thiele & George Weiss and Louis Armstrong, Harold Arlen & Yip Harburg, John Prine, Bill Danoff, Taffy Nivert & John Denver, Lefty Frizzel, Arlo Guthrie, Jerry Jeff Walker, Johnny Cash, Jimmy Davis, Carl Perkin, Simon & Garfunkel, Neil Diamond and the Beatles.

Please join and sing along. Lyrics will be provided!



## Prime Timers Events

We meet Wednesday at 12 noon. Unless a luncheon is planned, you bring your own lunch. Beverages and dessert are provided. If you like to participate in an exercise program, a group meets before the meeting at 10:30. A program is planned for each meeting and we all enjoy the fellowship and activities. All seniors are welcome.

January 8 - First Meeting of New Year - Holiday Traditions

January 15 - A Speaker from the Police Department to Discuss Current scams and how to protect yourself

January 22 - Concert with Ben Claase and Bob Baumann on their guitars. Group participation is encouraged

January 27 to January 31 - Trip to Woodloch Pines, Pennsylvania

February 5 - Set up for the Super Bowl and Chinese New Year

February 12 - Valentine's Day Pizza Party & Games

February 26 - Bingo

March 5 - Show and Tell

March 12 - St Patrick's Dinner, Party, and Sing-a-Long

# A Very SPECIAL Year!!

In 1910, William Howard Taft was President. There were 48 states and a new mission church is given the official title The Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Luke's, Farmingdale, New York.

Fifteen years later, 1925, a cornerstone is laid for our present church!

Join us this year as we commemorate

these two very special occasions, One hundred and fifteen years of "Sustained in Faith and Nurtured by Grace," and for One hundred years of blessing our house of worship.

The Fellowship Committee is busy planning activities to celebrate, an Ice Cream Social, a Church Picnic/BBQ, a German dinner, dates to be announced shortly. But additional help is needed. If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Irene Bossert, 516-382-6082.



## FAITH FORMATION

**Operation Christmas Child** is a service project Confirmation students, together with the whole congregation, are able to participate in. With the many generous gifts received this year, students were able to collect, sort and pack over 75 boxes, plus 6 large bags full of oversized items, for children



around the world who may have but this one gift for Christmas. It is through this one gift that Christ will be introduced to many. Thank you to all who donated to this worthy organization and made it possible for others to know Christ.

## Greetings from Rita

Greetings to the St. Luke's Lutheran Church Family!!

My name is Rita Ciccotelli, and I would like to introduce myself as your new Church Secretary. I am honored to work alongside Pastor Barnett and staff here at St. Luke's Lutheran Church. It is an absolute joy and privilege to serve our loving God together with all of you and my heart is overflowing with thankfulness!

I recognize the gift I have received in representing the high blessing that St. Luke's Lutheran Church is to its parish members, visitors, and to the Farmingdale, New York community. I vow to do all I can to utilize my work in the greatest ways to help see its mission and initiatives realized every day.

Being flexible towards my family life has been my priority for the past 10 years. I have worked in several positions in my three decades of experience as an administrative professional to include:



# FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE PLANNING FOR 2025

The Fellowship Committee will be meeting in early February after the Talent Show to make plans for Spring and Summer events. We are considering a brunch or lunch at a theme restaurant (Hibachi or Fondue) and are hoping to have a family friendly event sometime in April. Also under consideration is attending a faith based movie at a local theater and attending a musical production at a community theater. Check your bulletin for details and remember if you have any suggestions for the future please contact Irene Bossert at 516-293-9290 or see her after the 10 o'clock service at the coffee hour.

We always need new ideas and the committee wants to plan events that you enjoy.

## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

The Fellowship Committee is always looking for new ideas for events and activities. These events can be for children, adults or for the whole family. If there is anything that you would like to do as a group please send your ideas to Irene Bossert at irenebossert@yahoo.com or text her at 516-382-6082. You can also leave a note in the St. Luke's office. We have two events coming up in February and March.

## CHARCUTERIE BOARD WORKSHOP -

Friday, February 7; 7PM in the PAC

This is an activity new to St. Luke's. Lori Andersen Tirado will lead us in creating a delicious and beautiful array of finger food that we can take home with us to be served at Sunday's Super Bowl Party. We will learn how to make salami roses and other ornamental treats. While we are learning we can indulge in a few treats and have a glass of wine. Coffee and tea will also be available. The cost of the event will be \$40 and remember everyone goes home with their own Charcuterie Board. Call Irene Bossert at 516-293-9290.

## ST. LUKE'S TALENT SHOW -

Saturday, March 1 at 3:30 in the PAC

The talent Show has been a fun event for members of St. Luke's since its inception. Both the audience and the performers have all had a great time. In the past our participants have ranged in age from 7 to 90. So if you play an instrument, sing, dance, juggle, do magic tricks, act, do impersonations or have any other talent please sign up. We all know that Pastor Barnett has a great voice and he also plays the piano. He is definitely on the program. We also need artists and crafters. During intermission members display their photography, paintings, woodworking, drawings, shell craft, bead work, jewelry, quilting and needlework. The talent in our congregation is amazing.

So sign up now by contacting Ben Claase at 516-903-1738 or Irene Bossert at 516-293-9290 or text 516-382-6082. We need an audience so mark your calendar. The cost of admission is a can of food per person. Snacks and light refreshments will be served. The event is hosted by the Fellowship Committee and St Luke's Choir.

## Lessons and Carols



On Sunday, December 22, 2024 the combined choirs of Saint Luke's, Saint Kilian's and Saint Thomas joined together to sing a service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Much thanks to all of them for contributing their time and talent to make this service possible. This year the service was held in Saint Luke's Fellowship Hall. Saint Luke's Pastor Barnett, Saint Kilian's Msgr. Rowan and Saint Thomas' Father Barry participated in the service. Also participating in the service was Brian Manzo who assisted by playing the organ and conducting two carols.

The service began with a prelude by our resident bell choir, the Bells of Saint Luke's. The service followed a format of a reading of scripture followed by a related Carol. The Carols of such composers as Ralph Vaughan Williams, George Frederick Handel, Norman Luboff, Ruth Elaine Schram, Joseph Martin, John Purifoy, Dan Edwards, Mark Hughs, Pepper Choplin and Philip Stopford were sung.

The Altar Guild and Property Committee did a stunning job decorating Fellowship Hall and much thanks to them for all their hard work.

We also want to thank all those that came to the service. Fellowship Hall was quite full with not only Saint Luke's members, but visiting members of Saint Kilian's and Saint

Thomas. Again, we thank everyone who made this event possible.

## Greetings from Rita (continued)

Marketing, Human Resources, Accounting, Advertising, Language Translation, Consumer Relations, and Sales Operations departments. I bring a well-rounded history of working in business and with people to the church office.

God has blessed me with my husband and our two sons, and sweet dog. Our family loves to explore the great outdoors in the Catskill Mountains of New York and visiting museums. I enjoy decorating and organizing my home, and love to stay active. My hobbies are crochet, cooking for my family and friends, and cuddling with my very affectionate dog. I love all flowers, bright colors spicy foods and long walks.

Please know I am here to assist in any way I can. You may reach me by telephone at (516) 249-1220, Option 1 and also by email at secretary@stlukesfarmingdale.org. I look forward to meeting all of you in the days and weeks to come.

Blessings to you, Rita Ciccotelli, Church Secretary

## Christmas Angel Tree



Thank you to all who became a needy family's angel for Christmas. Lutheran Social Services shared the names of over fourteen families with two to four family members, ages 2-13, within each family. LSS shared the Christmas wish lists of these families with St. Luke's. And because of the congregation's generous heart for giving, each family member received two or more gifts, bringing our total collection this year to more than 100 gifts donated.

Thank you ".....for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7



# EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

In late September, Hurricane Helene stalled over western North Carolina, causing devastation the likes of which have never been seen before. The cost, both financial and emotional, is unprecedented. But so has the response from people across North Carolina to right here at St. Luke's which has donated funds and four boxes of ski jackets and a box of hats, gloves, scarves and socks to help those affected.



We hear stories of heartbreaking loss, but we also hear stories of hope, strength, and resilience. In the darkest of times, with your help and prayers, the people of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Asheville and North Carolina are most grateful. Continued help is needed. Please contact the church office (516-249-1220) if you would like to help.



# Christmas Holiday Happenings at ECEC

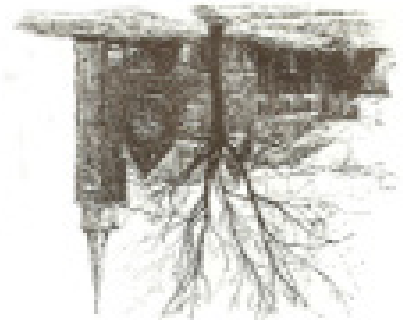
Christmas is always fun at St. Luke's! This December started off with The Polar Express making scheduled stops here for the children. There was an extra special guest performance by Cornelio, everyone's favorite custodian, playing the conductor, by punching each child's ticket to ride the Polar Express! The children and Cornelio had a rewarding experience.



Also during the first week of December, we had a special visit from St. Nicholas himself! Bobby Betz, our highly dedicated volunteer security team member played St. Nicholas to perfection. Children were mesmerized and generally happy and smiling, as St. Nicholas came to deliver gold chocolate coins, by dropping one in each child's shoe left outside the classroom. St. Nicholas also asked each child if they've been good little children this year. Expectedly, every child responded in the affirmative!

Children are practicing holiday singing as I type, for our annual Christmas Performance on Thursday, December 19. Early next week, is the first annual St. Luke's All Star Band staff holiday performance for the children. The band consists of everyone's favorite Music Instructor Dr. Gene McCoy on keyboards, Chef Joseph Ciatto on drums, and singer extraordinaire Teacher Nick Farrauto.

Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year!



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