

# St. Luke Lutheran Church

900 Maryvale Drive Cheektowaga, NY 14225-2702  
716-633-6752 www.stluke-buffalo.org

*We are called by God's grace to enlighten all people in Jesus Christ*



The Monthly Newsletter since 1954

April 2025

Pastor Phil Schultz

Pam Maconaghy  
Editor

Email: stlukechips@yahoo.com

## Worship Schedule

Sundays at 9:00 AM  
(Traditional)

Sundays at 11:00 AM  
(Soul Celebration  
contemporary worship the  
1st and 3rd Sundays)

Wednesdays at 7:00 PM  
(Causal Worship)

## Holy Communion

Is celebrated on the 2nd,  
4th, and 5th Sundays of the  
month and the Wednesdays  
that follow.

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## From The Pastor

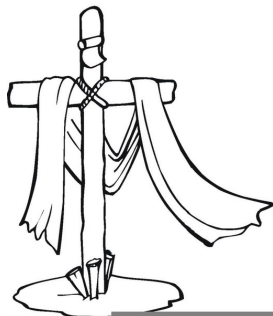


St Luke Family,

In April 2003 Aron Ralston was hiking and Rock climbing in Utah, when a bolder let loose, crushing his arm and trapping him alone at the bottom of a remote canyon. Ralston had not informed anyone of his hiking plans, nor did he have any way to call for help. After being there several days, dehydrated and delirious and having no hope of being found, Ralston took desperate measures and amputated his arm to save his life. In recalling the moment, he says that in excruciating pain, I shouted in agony and in victory, because I had finally freed myself and now had a chance to escape and live.

As we move through Lent, as we make our way to Good Friday and Easter Scripture tells us of the pain and agony Christ experienced during His crucifixion. However, at the end of His life the gospel of John proclaims: **Jesus knew that His mission was now finished, and to fulfill Scripture He said, "I am thirsty." A jar of sour wine was sitting there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put it on a hyssop branch, and held it up to His lips. When Jesus had tasted it, He said, "It is finished!" Then He bowed His head and gave up His spirit. (John 19:28-30. NLT)** With these words from the cross, we find the savior of the world, not crying out in painful defeat but declaring the triumph victory over sin.

Friends, Jesus did what none of us can do. He paid the price for our sins so that we might receive forgiveness from God the Father and have the hope of eternal life in Him. "It is finished!" was the Savior's shout of victory because now, through Him, we can escape the power of sin; we can live and be free.



Let us remember and give thanks for what He did on Good Friday, as we prepare to celebrate Easter, may we hold onto to knowing that victory belongs to Him.

In Christ,  
Pastor Phil

**In 2024, the Food Pantry that you support served 20,108 meals to 1,005 Households.** This is the largest number of households and meals we helped in a decade.



Pray to have God bless this ministry and raise up people willing to assist in its growth. God can do so much when we ask Him for it. When you do your weekly shopping pick up a couple of items. They aren't expensive: a can of vegetables, a can of fruit, a jar of peanut butter, a can of soup or a can of tuna. How about offering to have your workplace sponsor a food drive, or making a financial donation?

**Verse of the Month**

But He was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.

~ Isaiah 53:5, NLT

**Who to Call...**

The Staff of St. Luke Lutheran Church stand ready to assist you in every way we can, and can be reached at church (716) 633-6752 Our fax number is (716)-219-1105. Our email address is secretary@stluke-buffalo.org Church office Hours M-TH 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

**MINISTRY STAFF**

Pastor	Phil Schultz	276-3949
Musician	Susan Errett	225-2157
Office Manger	Karen Baglio	633-6752

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

President	Nancy Koehler	289-4453
Vice-President—Personnel	Bill Dunlop	316-2244
Vice-President—Property	Glenn Kilger	560-9738
Treasurer	Linda Rowe	684-6236
Financial Secretary	Ken Knoll	683-7274
Recording Secretary	Debbie Fiebelkorn	907-6219

**CHURCH COUNCIL**

Spiritual Life/Congregational Care	Karen Baglio	633-6752
Stewardship	Fred Schmitt	686-0642
Outreach and Mission Services	Kammy Ciesielski	632-2723
Christian Education/Life	Anne Schultz	412-417-9735
	Michelle Silverblatt	310-1413
Media Relations	Tom Green	685-8786

**BOARD OF ELDERS**

Walter Grzyb	393-3670	Susanna Garofaro	688-7094
Karen Baglio	473-8556	Manfred Rieger	634-4669
Allan Riemer	771-3542	Tyler Silverblatt	380-2920
Craig Maconaghy	479-0728	Ron Connor	632-1958

**OTHER CONTACTS**

Address/phone corrections	Karen Baglio	633-6752
Altar Care	Allan Riemer	771-3542
Altar Flowers	Kathy Brogan	633-6752
Bulletin Announcements	Karen Baglio	633-6752
"CHIPS" Newsletter	Pam Maconaghy	479-0725
Facility Maintenance	Glenn Kilger	560-9738
Facility Use (scheduling)	Church Office	633-6752
Food Pantry	Robin Beane	697-1440
Fund Raising Committee	Fred Schmitt	686-0642
LWML	Marge Albert	875-9363
Youth Group	Church office	
Son Shine Committee	Pastor Phil	
Sunday School Information	Cinde Gross	774-0063
Thrivent	Church Office	
Weekly Contributions	Ken Knoll	683-7242

**ONLINE GIVING:** Here at St. Luke we give because God first gave to us. It's not out of duty, obligation or guilt. Our gracious God actually rejects those motives. It's not because we have to, it's because we get to. And in giving out of a heart of gratitude we are able, in yet one more tangible way, to be part of a mission bigger than ourselves – Called by God's grace to enlighten all people in Christ Jesus

**How to give electronically?**

- On the web: [stluke-buffalo.org/give](http://stluke-buffalo.org/give) or [app.easytithe.com/app/giving/stlukebuff](http://app.easytithe.com/app/giving/stlukebuff)
- The App Store: Search for EasyTithe and find St. Luke by our zip code 14225
- Scan the QR code:



**LWML BAKE SALE:** Palm Sunday, April 13th. Between the two Sunday services. Sign-up sheet located on the welcome desk to donate baked goods. LWML will be setting up on Saturday, April 12th from 2:00 - 4:00 PM. That is when you can drop off your baked goods. We are aware of the increase cost of baking items (especially eggs) so LWML is offering a incentive of \$5.00 to help those in need of assistance. We apricated our bakes and those that support our ministry. Questions speak with Marge Albert, St. Luke's LWML President.



## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER AT ST LUKE

April 13th Palm Sunday at 9:00 and 11:00 AM with Communion

April 17th Maundy Thursday at 7:00 PM with communion

April 18th Good Friday Tre Ore (Seven Words of Jesus from the Cross)  
12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

- 12:00 - 12:20 PM: Pastor Ben Eder
- 12:25 - 12:45 PM: Pastor Rako Zeck
- 12:50 - 1:10 PM: Pastor Chris Wicher
- 1:15 - 1:35 PM: Pastor David Wurster
- 1:40 - 2:10 PM: Pastor Phil Schultz
- 2:15 - 2:35PM: Pastor Jeff Nickel
- 2:40 - 3:00 PM: Pastor David Walsh

April 18th Good Friday Evening at 7:00 PM

April 20th Easter Resurrection Sunday at 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM with communion  
Easter Brunch at 9:45 AM

**EASTER BRUNCH MUFFINS:** We are looking for people to bake various types of muffins for ou Easter Brunch. Sign up on the welcome desk and drop them off at the Easter set up April 19th.

**EASTER SET UP:** Saturday, April 19th at 10:00 AM. We need help prepping the church for Easter. We will be prepping for the brunch, and setting up the tables. Doing some cleaning around the building. Dyeing easter eggs (bring the kids). Sign up on the welcome desk in the fellowship area.

### WEDNESDAY LENTEN ROTATION

**SCHEDULE:** Supper begins at 6:00pm, followed by worship at 7:00pm. Throughout the years we have made many friends and developed relationships with our sister congregations. Below is the weekly schedule:

- **April 2nd:** Our Savior Lutheran Church, 26 Brunswick Blvd. Buffalo
- **April 9th:** Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 6965 Chestnut Ridge Rd., Lockport (Dinner and Devotions)

**USHERS :** Thank you to everyone who singed up to usher during Holy Week and Easter.

**FUN DEFENSIVE DRIVING CLASS:** Monday & Tuesday, May 19th & 20th, 6-9 PM at church, cost: \$39/person. This is the Defensive Driving Class that will save you 10% on your auto insurance for 3 years and reduce up to 4 points from your record. Tell your family and friends. We need a minimum of 25 people for this class to run. To enroll, use the sign up sheet on the Welcome Desk in the Fellowship Hall or call the church office at 716-633-6752 or send an e-mail to [secretary@stluke-buffalo.org](mailto:secretary@stluke-buffalo.org). You must attend both classes. Payments will be accepted by the instructor the first day of class, cash or check payable to Safe Driver Academy. If you have any questions, please contact Dale Karcher 716-771-1600

**FOOD PANTRY FINANCES:** St. Luke does received food from Feed More of Western New York at little to no cost however there are many items that are not covered by Feed More. In 2024 St. Luke paid \$13,741.52 to stock the shelves. These monies came from donations and fund-raising events where the food pantry was part of designated beneficiaries. Financial donations are always gratefully accepted. You can give online though our online giving platform EasyTithe got to My Donation and click Food Pantry. Other ways would be to bring in any non-perishable donation and put the donation in the designated bucket or use the envelope in the pew holders and list it for "Food Pantry." There is a list of most needed items on the Fellowship Desk.

**MARK YOUR CALANDAR:** We will be doing a Spring Cleanup and organizing of the church on Saturday, May 3rd. HELP IS NEEDED. More details to come.

**OUTREACH:** Willl be collecting donations of formalwear donated to the Foster Love Closet or Shea's. Watch for details.

# CHURCH COUNCIL

## Update from Your Trustees and Church Council

We have been focusing on improving the physical structure of our church. Significant repairs have already been made, including a much-needed sump pump repair. Moving forward, we are obtaining quotes for additional maintenance needs such as flashing on the side of the building, replacing gutters, and shopping for out elevator maintained contract.

We are also thrilled to report that our Christmas services saw the highest attendance since pre-Covid times. This resurgence in participation is a testament to the powerful sense of community and faith within our congregation.

In terms of outreach and giving, our congregation has shown remarkable generosity. Twenty-six children received gifts from our Giving Tree, thanks to the efforts of Dale Karcher. Dale is also proposing new events for our community, including a Defensive Driving Class and easy fitness classes led by a professional instructor.

Our fall fundraisers have been remarkably successful, raising a total of \$2,180. These funds will be distributed equally among Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Pioneer on the Lake (aka Camp Pioneer), St. Luke's mortgage principal, and our Youth Group, with each receiving \$545.

The Winter Popcorn Sales raised \$255.00 that is being used toward the Mortgage Principal Reduction and the Winter Soup Sales raised \$525.00 that will be used to purchasing sheets for the "Sleep in Heavenly Peace" project.

Thank you to all who participated in these mouthwatering events and to Fred & Betty Ann Schmitt for their thorough organization.

Outreach continues to explore ways to engage both our youth and congregation members through collaborative efforts with local schools.

**IRA DISTRIBUTIONS:** In 2025 do you have an IRA or other retirement account that you have you are required to take a distribution from (RMD)? Please consider make it to St. Luke Lutheran Church. As a charitable organization, we eligible to receive IRA contributions as QCD's (Qualified Charitable Distributions) and in doing so you will not have to pay taxes it. If you have any questions please contact the church office.

**EASTERN DISTRICT CONVENTION:** The 2025 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's Eastern District Convention is scheduled for Friday, June 20, and Saturday, June 21, at First Trinity Lutheran Church in Tonawanda. The schedule includes time for conducting business, electing officers, and sharing information. **St Luke needs a lay voting delegate please contact Pastor Phil if interested or have any questions.**

- Tom Martin
- Brian Lagree (step brother of Kristen Taylor)
- Kirk Everett
- Ron Nelson
- Manfred Reiger
- Don Eggert
- Nancy Taynton ( Lois Richter's sister)
- Donna Albert,
- Edna Brudz
- Sean (neighbor of Jim Nietopski),
- Stepmom, niece and nephew of Marlena Zuercher
- Don Riemer
- Bev Wicher
- VBS Families & Volunteers
- Family of Roger Stahlman (nephew of Ardys Lerch)
- Family of Diane Michael
- Family of Carol Yansick

To make updates to our prayer list please call the church office.



**In our prayers:**

- Chuck Walters
- Bev Haist
- Joya Palermo
- Marty Palermo
- Bernadine Walters
- Marilyn Kozlowski
- Sheila (Tom Green's sister)
- Judy Bogdan,
- Tammy Vesper
- Baby Augie Casas
- Ron Kaun
- Linda Harris
- Ken Harlock
- Diana (friend of the Gross's)

**Church Phone Number:**

716-633-6752

**Website:**

[www.stluke-buffalo.org](http://www.stluke-buffalo.org)

**Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/StLukeBuffalo](https://www.facebook.com/StLukeBuffalo)

**X (Twitter):**

@StLukeBuffalo

**YouTube:**

<https://www.youtube.com/c/stlukelutheranbuffalo>



## APRIL 2025 BIRTHDAYS

Loeffler, Rita	4/1	Schmitt, Betty Ann	4/6	Brudz, Thomas	4/23
Williams, Connie	4/1	Brand, Elisabeth	4/7	Faskel, Darwin	4/23
Kasprzyk, Virginia	4/3	Hart, Isaiah	4/7	Hanel, Bailey	4/24
Richter, Lois	4/4	Deitrick, Sebastian	4/10	Grefrath, Scott	4/25
Costanzo, Lauren	4/5	Uplinger, Adam	4/12	Maconaghy, Pamela	4/25
Fusco, Martha	4/5	Burns, Keira	4/13	Curry, Janice	4/26
Deitrick, Raina	4/6	Torcasio, Vincent	4/13	Stanford, Suzette	4/26
Jones, Patricia	4/6	Wojcik, Rosalie	4/13	Taylor, Kristen	4/26
		Monroe, Stacy	4/14	Walters, Bernadine	4/26
		Wicher, Beverly	4/14	Biegasiewicz, April	4/29
		Hart, Aidan	4/17	Smith, Melissa	4/30
		Taylor, Richard	4/17		
		Uplinger, Lisa	4/18		
		Ricks, Nya	4/20		
		Errett, Donald	4/21		
		D'Amico, Kathryn	4/22		
		Glass, Sheri	4/22		



Mark your calendar! **Camp Firelight VBS** will be here in **less than 3 months! Monday, June 30th - Thursday, July 3rd**

Whether **in-person or behind-the-scenes**, we have a way for **you** to be a part of this fun family outreach event! Scan the QR code with the camera on your phone and click on the link, or go to **vbspro.events/p/020790** for info and volunteer registration! And be sure to check out our display in the foyer. Our **volunteer workshop is mandatory** for everyone working with the children. It will take place on **June 21st at 9:00AM**.

Please join us for **Decorating Days**: Saturday, **June 21st at 10:30AM** (after the workshop) and Saturday, **June 28th starting at 9:00AM**. We will have **"table tasks"** to complete for our helpers who prefer to remain seated.

We would like to provide more individual cans/bottles of **pop, iced tea, and water** for our thirsty, hard-working volunteers during VBS week! **Please consider picking up a case** when you're out grocery shopping. (Tops often has great sales on pop.) Any drink donations can be left in the library.

To create a woodsy camping environment, we would love to **borrow your artificial Christmas tree!** Trees can be with or without lights. Please label with your name to ensure trees return to their homes after VBS. We will handle your tree with care, but please note that it will be on display around children. Trees can be left in the area by the coat rack (down the steps outside the sanctuary) or by the foyer VBS display.





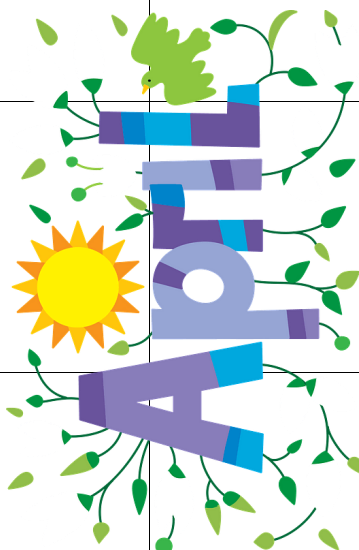
**Thank you** to all who are willing to donate your time, talents, and treasures to this amazing ministry!

Questions? Talk to Annie Schultz or Michelle Silverblatt, or email us at [stlukebuffalokids@gmail.com](mailto:stlukebuffalokids@gmail.com)



# April 2025

St. Luke Lutheran Church—900 Maryvale Drive—Cheektowaga NY—Phone 633-6752 or 634-5560—E-mail: secretary@stluke-buffalo.org  
 Worship Wednesday 7 p.m.—Sunday 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.—Sunday School 11:00 a.m.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> 10-2:00pm Food Pantry 10:00pm Tole Painters	<b>2</b> 6:00pm Lenten Supper and Worship/Our Savior- Buffalo	<b>3</b> 9:00am Paper Cuts 10:00am Bible Study	<b>4</b> Office Closed	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 5th Sunday of Lent 9:00am Worship 11:00am Worship/ Sun- day School	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10-2:00pm Food Pantry 10:00pm Tole Painters	<b>9</b> 6:00pm Lenten Supper and Worship/Mt. Olive- Lockport	<b>10</b> 9:00am Paper Cuts 10:00am Bible Study	<b>11</b> Office Closed	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> LWML Bake Sale  Palm Sunday 9:00am Worship 10:10am Confirmation Class	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 10-2:00pm Food Pantry 10:00pm Tole Painters 7:30pm Recovery	<b>16</b> 11:00am LWML mtg. 7:00pm Worship	<b>17</b> 9:00am Paper Cuts 7:00pm Maundy Thursday	<b>18</b> Office Closed Noon-3:00pm Tre Ore  7:00pm Tenebrae Worship	<b>19</b> 9:00am Fundraising mtg. Set-up for Easter brunch
<b>20</b> Easter Sunday 8:30am Worship 9:45am brunch 11:00am Worship/ Sun- day School	<b>21</b> Office Closed	<b>22</b> 10-2:00pm Food Pantry 10:00pm Tole Painters 7:30pm Recovery	<b>23</b> 7:00pm Worship	<b>24</b> 9:00am Paper Cuts	<b>25</b> Office Closed	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 2nd Sunday of Easter 9:00am Worship 11:00am Worship/ Sun-	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 10-2:00pm Food Pantry 10:00pm Tole Painters 7:30pm Recovery	<b>30</b> 7:00pm Worship			

**St. Luke Lutheran Church**

900 Maryvale Drive  
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

Phone: 716-633-6752  
Fax: 716-635-0718  
Email: secretary@stluke-buffalo.org

<p><b>U.S. Postage PAID Non-Profit Org. Permit #644 Buffalo, NY</b></p>
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Address Service Requested

		April 6	April 13 Palm Sunday	April 17 Maundy Thursday	April 18 Good Friday	April 20 Easter Sunday	April 27
Greeters	9:00	Linda Rowe	Allan & Arlene Riemer			Chuck & Betty Walters (8:30)	Skip & Pat Rohloff
	11:00		Nicki Tober			Betty Ann Schmitt	Rita Loeffler
Elder	9:00		Karen Baglio	Susanna Garafaro 7:00pm	Ron Connor Tre-Ore	Karen Baglio 8:30	Allan Riemer
	11:00	Soul Celebration	Susanna Garafaro			Wally Grzyb 11:00 am	Tyler Silverblatt
Lector	9:00	Peggy Bouquin	Marg Albert			Marg Albert 8:30 a	Allan Riemer
	11:00	Soul Celebration	Nancy Koehler	Karen Baglio 7:00p		Dee Grzyb	Nancy Koehler
Communion Assistant	9:00		Marg Albert			Marg Albert 8:30 a	Kathy Brogan
	11:00		Ed Loeffler	Karen Baglio 7:00p		Dee Grzyb, Ed Loeffler Nancy Koehler	Nancy Koehler
Counters		Ken Knoll & Linda Rowe	Ken Knoll & Linda Rowe			Ken Knoll & Linda Rowe	Ken Knoll & Linda Rowe
Ushers	9:00	Glen Kilger Ken Knoll	Skip Rohloff Ken Knoll		Glen Kilger Ken Knoll	John & Cinde Gross Ken Knoll Glen Kilger	Glen Kilger Ken Knoll
	11:00			Manfred Rieger Glen Kilger 7p	Karen Machnica Rita Loeffler	Louise Mallon Diana Palermo Manfred Riemer Don Becker	Karen Machnica Rita Loeffler
Altar Care					Karen Baglio		