

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



December 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

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 'Tis the Season

Friends, as December arrives, our hearts turn once again to the wonders of Advent and Christmas. The days grow shorter, the nights grow colder, and yet the hope of this season is what shines. In a world that often feels hurried, fractured, or weary, Advent calls us to pause—to wait, to watch, and to make room in our lives for the coming of Christ. Advent reminds us that God is faithful to His promises. The Lord promised to send a Savior who would rescue us from sin and death. Each candle we light on our Advent wreath proclaims that promise again: In Christ there is forgiveness, in Christ there is life, in Christ there is hope.

And then comes Christmas—the celebration of God's promise fulfilled. In the little town of Bethlehem, in the humblest of places, the amazing, awesome, almighty God of everything took on flesh and entered our world. The child was born who would one day stretch out His arms on the cross for the forgiveness of all. The manager points us to the cross, and the cross points us to the empty tomb. Christmas is not only a story of a birth—it is the story of a Savior.

As the family of St. Luke, this season brings joyful opportunities to worship, serve, give, and celebrate together. From special worship services, our kids' Christmas program. From your generous acts, such as donating to the giving tree, food pantry, or making a special gift or offering. To those moments with just you and the Lord, 'tis the season, and my prayer is that you enter this season with hearts open to God and what He has for you.

May the peace of Christ, Emmanuel, "God with us"—fill your homes and your hearts this time of year. Blessings on your Advent waiting and Christmas rejoicing!

Celebrating Him with you,

Pastor Phil

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
Organist	Susan Errett	225-2157
Office Manger	Karen Baglio	473-8556

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President	Nancy Koehler	289-4453
Vice-President—Personnel	Bill Dunlop	316-2244
Vice-President—Property	Glen 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	473-8556
Stewardship	Fred Schmitt	686-0642
Outreach and Mission Services	Kammy Ciesielski	523-1209
Christian Education/Life	Anne Schultz	(412) 417-9765
	Michelle Silverblatt	310-1413
Media Relations	Tom Green	685-8786
Special Care & Human Services	Dale Karcher	771-1600
Youth and Family	Open	

BOARD OF ELDERS

Susanna Garofaro	688-7094	Karen Baglio	473-8556
Manfried 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	Glen Kilger	560-9738
Facility Use (scheduling)	Church Office	633-6752
Food Pantry	Robin Beane	697-1440
Fund Raising Committee	Fred Schmitt	686-0642
LWML	Marg Albert	875-9363
Youth Group	Pastor Phil	
Visitation	Pastor Phil	
Sunday School Information	Anne Schultz	276-3949
Weekly Contributions	Ken Knoll	683-7242



We have recently seen an uptick in the people we are serving at our food pantry. We need your help to make sure our shelves are replenished so we can help those in need.

Items we need: kernel corn, cream corn, peaches, cake mixes, cut green beans, French green, pears, chicken soup, peas, fruit cocktail, tomato soup, spinach, pineapple chunks, baked beans, beets, pasta sauce (regular), diced tomatoes, canned chicken, canned pasta (e.g. rings), egg noodles, toilet tissue, tuna, peanut butter, pancake mix, Sunny D juice, tea, pancake syrup, assorted beans, baked beans, elbow noodles, breakfast cereal oatmeal)

Church Phone Number:
(716) 633-6752

Website:
www.stluke-buffalo.org

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/StLukeBuffalo

X (Twitter):
@StLukeBuffalo

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

ST. LUKE FOOD PANTRY			
Week of	Households	People	Meals
11/18/25	31	74	666
Month to date	78	185	1,665
Year to date	927	2,005	18,045

GIVING TREE: Thank you to everyone who signed up for the giving Tree. Gifts are due back to the church by Sunday, December 14th.

CHRISTMAS WREATH SALE:

Orders will be ready for pick-up on Sunday, December 7th from 10:00 am - 12:15 pm.

BUFFALO NORTH ADVENT

WORSHIP: Join us for dinner and advent worship with our fellow Buffalo North LCMS churches. Dinner begins at 6:00 pm with worship at 7:00 pm.

- December 3rd at St. Luke, Cheektowaga
- December 10th at Holy Cross, Clarence
- December 17th at Pilgrim, Kenmore.

CHURCH BUSINESS MEETING:

Sunday, December 14th at 9:45 am in the sanctuary. To allow time for the meeting the 9:00 am **worship will be moved to 8:30 am.** We will present the proposed 2026 Budget and vote to approve Trustee/ Council candidates. There is a copy of the proposed 2026 budget on the welcome desk. All members are encouraged to attend.

Position to be filled. If you are interested in running for one of these, speak to Pastor Phil, Bill Dunlap (VP of Personnel), or Nancy Koehler (President)

- President
- VP of Properties
- Financial Secretary
- Spiritual Care (elected by Board of Elders)
- Youth and Family
- Human Care
- Media Relations

CONFIRMATION: Because Pastor Phil doesn't know how to look at the calendar, our confirmation class that is scheduled for December 14th (the Church Business Meeting) will be online for the month of December. The link will be sent out that Sunday morning, and available on our YouTube page.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: "The Angels Who Were Always Late" will take place on Sunday, December 21st at both the 9:00 and 11:00 am worship services.

Christmas At St. Luke

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24th

3:00 pm (family service),

5:00 pm, or 9:00 pm.

Communion at all three services.

(We will also have an online service on our YouTube page.)

Christmas Day

Thursday, December 25th at 10:00 am.

We will celebrate the Lord's supper on Christmas Day.

We won't have worship on Wednesday, December 31st because of New Years Eve.

GIVING: If you have an IRA that you have yet to decide where to put your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) by the end of 2025, you might want to consider us here at St. Luke. As a charitable organization, St Luke is eligible to receive IRA contributions as QCD's (Qualified Charitable Distributions), and you won't have to pay taxes on that donation.

THRIVENT CLIENTS: It has come to our attention that Thrivent is offering clients (who are eligible) designated funds that could help non-profits and their mission work, (like our Food Pantry) to help restock shelves, by sending clients a gift card for \$250.00 each. You might have been contacted by email or get in touch with Thrivent to find out if you qualify for this special gift.

AMAZON LIST: We've put together an Amazon Registry with items needed for Sunday School, VBS, and Kid's Christmas Play. They can be shipped directly to us. Visit www.stluke-buffalo.org and click on the amazon logo at the bottom of the page Or use this QR Code



Thank you for your generous support, St. Luke Kid's ministry


In our prayers



- Chuck Walters
- Bev Haist
- Bernadine Walters
- Marilyn Kozlowski
- Sheila (Tom Green's sister)
- Don Eggert
- Sean (neighbor of Jim Nietopski)
- Stepmom, niece and nephew of Marlena Zuercher
- Kathleen Jim (Nietopski's sister), Glenn Evertt
- Brian Bartosik
- Max Brenzell
- Dan Vecchio
- Rick Baron & Eddy Thoric (Friends of the Taylors)
- Carol Deitrick
- Betty Walters
- David Beicke
- Cinde Gross
- Rachel Maconaghy and Baby Mackenzie
- Ron Connor
- Tracy Nelson
- Kathy Jones,
- Family of Edwina Brudz

December 2025

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 <u>10-2:00pm</u> Food Pantry <u>10:00am</u> Tole Painters <u>7:30pm</u> Recovery	3 <u>1st Advent</u> Worship at St. Luke <u>6:00pm</u> supper <u>7:00pm</u> worship	4 <u>10:00am</u> Bible Study & Paper Cuts	5 <i>Office Closed</i>	6 <u>10-12pm</u> <u>Christmas Program</u> <u>Practice</u>
7 <u>2nd Sunday of</u> <u>Advent</u> <u>9:00am</u> Worship <u>11:00am</u> Worship/ Sunday School	8	9 <u>10-2:00pm</u> Food Pantry <u>10:00am</u> Tole Painters <u>7:30pm</u> Recovery	10 <u>2nd Advent</u> Worship at Holy Cross/Clarence <u>6:00pm</u> supper <u>7:00pm</u> worship @ St. Luke	11 <u>10:00am</u> Bible Study & Paper Cuts	12 <i>Office Closed</i>	13 <u>10-12pm</u> <u>Christmas Program</u> <u>Practice</u>
14 <u>3rd Sunday of</u> <u>Advent</u> <u>8:30am</u> Worship Congregational mtg. <u>11:00am</u> Worship/ Sunday School	15	16 <u>10-2:00pm</u> Food Pantry <u>10:00am</u> Tole Painters <u>7:30pm</u> Recovery	17 <u>2nd Advent</u> Worship at Pilgrim (Kenmore) <u>6:00pm</u> supper <u>7:00pm</u> worship <u>7:00pm</u> worship @ St. Luke	18 <u>10:00am</u> Paper Cuts	19 <i>Office Closed</i>	20 <u>9:00am</u> Fundraising mtg. <u>10-12pm</u> <u>Christmas Program</u> <u>Practice</u>
21 <u>4th Sunday of</u> <u>Advent</u> <u>9:00am</u> Worship <u>11:00am</u> Worship <u>Christmas Program</u> Both services <i>Winter begins</i>	22	23 <u>10-2:00pm</u> Food Pantry <u>7:30pm</u> Recovery	24 <u>Christmas Eve</u> <u>3:00pm</u> Worship <u>5:00pm</u> Worship <u>9:00pm</u> Worship	25 <u>Christmas</u> <u>10:00am</u> Christmas Worship	26 <i>Office Closed</i>	27
28 <u>1st Sunday</u> <u>after Christmas</u> <u>9:00am</u> Worship <u>11:00am</u> Worship/ Sunday School	29	30 <u>10-2:00pm</u> Food Pantry <u>10:00am</u> Tole Painters	31 <i>No Wednesday Evening Worship</i>			

Smith, Ryan	12/1	Hanel, Jean	12/11	Brado, Susan	12/27
Hart, Lily	12/2	Sakilay, Samuel	12/11	Boyle, Eric	12/28
Eckam, Karen	12/4	Zimmerman, Aidan	12/12	Broad, William	12/28
Sakilay, Stephen	12/5	Stannard, Bianca	12/13	Ruppert, Travis	12/28
Vaccaro, Sophie	12/5	Kasprzyk, Andrew	12/14	Tarnowski, Gregory	12/28
Zuch, Doris	12/5	Oettinger, Adam	12/14	Tarnowski, Landon	12/29
Horn, Sherry	12/6	Beane, Robin	12/16	Vanaker, Leanne	12/29
Baglio, Paul	12/7	Green, Thomas	12/16		
Malchow, Dawn	12/7	Michael, Maximilian	12/18		
Torcasio, Samuel	12/7	Walters, Charles	12/18		
Nietopski, James	12/8	Berebko, Susan	12/19		
Stachowski, Viola	12/8	Kozlowski, Marilyn	12/20		
Baranetsky, Erin	12/9	Deitrick, Carol	12/22		
Brudz, Abigail	12/9	Connor, Larissa	12/26		
Gross, Cynthia	12/9	Smith, Kaeden	12/26		



Christmas Worship Helper

Christmas Eve at 3:00 pm

Anne Schultz: Lector/Communion Assistant
Linda Rowe: Communion Assistant

Christmas Eve at 5:00 PM

Michelle Silverblatt: Lector
Marge Albert: Communion Assistant
Tyler Silverblatt: Elder

Christmas Eve at 9:00 pm

Ed Loeffler: Lector
Nancy Koehler: Communion Assistant
Craig Maconaghy: Elder

Christmas Day at 10:00 am

Anne Schultz: Lector/Communion Assistant
Susan Garofaro: Elder



Christmas at St. Luke

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31st
because of New Years Eve.

	Service	Dec. 7	Dec. 14 Business Meeting (First service 8:30 am)	Dec. 21 Christmas Program	Dec. 28
Greeters	9:00 AM	Skip & Pat Rohloff	Paul & Karen Baglio	Linda Rowe	Allan & Arlene Riemer
	11:00 AM	Betty Ann Schmitt	Rita Loeffler	Virginia Becker	Ed Loeffler
Lectors	9:00 AM	Peggy Bouquin	Marge Albert		Allan Riemer
	11:00 AM	Soul Celebration	Susan Garofaro		Tyler Silverblatt
Communion Assistants	9:00 AM		Marge Albert		Kathy Brogran
	11:00 AM		Nancy Kohler		Michelle Silverblatt
Ushers	9:00 AM	Glenn Kilger Ken Knoll	Skip Roloff Ken Knoll	John and Cinde Gross	Glenn Kilger Ken Knoll
	11:00 AM	Ardys Lerch Joe DiGiacomo	Don Becker Tom Nelson	Louise Mallon Diane Palermo	Karen Machnica Rita Loeffler

Thank You to Our Church Servants

Thank you to all who give your time, gifts, and hearts to serve her at St. Luke. Your willingness to step forward—whether seen or unseen—reflects the love of Christ in action. Because of you, ministries flourish, worship is lifted, and the family of faith is strengthened.

We are grateful for every usher, lector, teacher, greeter, communion assistant, elder, council and trustee member, food pantry helper, and all those other volunteer whom we've failed to mention who've said, *"Here am I, Lord—send me."* Your service matters. It makes a difference. And it blesses more people than you know.

May God richly encourage you as you continue to serve His people with joy.

*Thank
you*

From The Church Council

Kitchen Renovation Progress:

The kitchen renovation is almost complete. Recent improvements have been made, including freshly painted walls and serving areas, new cabinet and drawer hardware, and the replacement of old dinnerware and utensils. New liners have refreshed the cupboards and drawers, and both the counter end and cabinet doors are being refinished and/or replaced to create a more modern appearance. Soon, new White Corelle dishes will be added, and under-cabinet lighting will be installed to enhance functionality. A rolling cooking cart will be introduced, providing a convenient workspace for chefs. Additional secure storage is being added, and a designated kitchen area will be set aside for Youth meeting supplies.

Funding for the kitchen project has come from Memorial Funds. Most of the work has been accomplished through volunteer efforts, affectionately called "Sweat Equity." The Painters and Overall Assistants "Sweat Equity" Team includes Diane Palermo, Betty Ann Schmitt, Rita Loeffler, Connie Williams, Lori Brand, Louise Mallon, and Ed Loeffler. Glenn Kilger, Phil Horn, and Rich Taylor—provided electrical work, removed a swinging door, and replaced the counter end. John Gross contributed his skills to repair and install drawer slides and

the backsplash. Thanks to the dedication of these volunteers, the kitchen renovation was completed for under \$2,000. Their hard work and commitment are deeply appreciated.

Food Pantry Update: We purchase a new upright freezer for the Food Pantry using funds from the Benevolence Fund. The newly acquired freezer has the unique feature of operating either as a refrigerator or a freezer, depending on our needs.

Future council/trustee meetings: We are exploring the possibility of holding our council/trustee meetings between the Sunday service during the winter months.

Christmas Undecorating We will be taking down the Christmas decorations on Sunday, January 4th after both the 9:00 and 11:00 AM worship services. We will have a potluck lunch immediately following the 11:00 AM service. This is a big undertaking and the more hands we have, the faster we will get it accomplished. We hope you will make some time and join us for some fun and fellowship. If the Bills play at 1:00 PM will have the game on the TVs around the church.

Mark Your Calendars: We will be having our "Kick off the New Year" Celebration on Sunday, January 11th. We will have one Sunday worship at 10:00 am, followed by a potluck lunch. More information to come.

Mini Capital Campaign

Suggested: Our current mortgage balance is \$377,000, and it stretches out until 2039. It was suggested to hold a small Capital Campaign to raise enough funds to pay our mortgage payment for one year, and this payment would go towards the principal. More details to come.

Pew Communion: A reminder that the communion elements are still available in the back for those who would like to remain in their seats when we celebrate the Lord's Supper. However, if you would like Pastor Phil to serve you communion simply notify him or an usher and the elements will be brought to you during that part of the service.

As we come to the close of another year, we pause to thank God for all He has done through our church. As you consider your year-end giving, we invite you to prayerfully support the mission and ministry of St. Luke. Your gifts will help us finish the year strong and prepare for the opportunities God has placed before us in the coming year. Every gift, large or small, makes a meaningful difference. Thank you for giving with joy, for serving with heart, and for investing in the work God is doing among us.

FALL FUNDRAISERS:

Quilt Raffle: raised \$254.00-mortgage principle: 90%, food pantry 10%. Quilt was donated by Sharon Beyer (of our congregation) and was made by the ladies of Sharon Beyer's church in Florida.

Fall Craft Fair: raised \$726.00-mortgage principle: 50%, Friends of the Night People: 50% Popcorn Sales: will continue until December 21st. Watch for special popcorn for Christmas.

St. Luke Lutheran Church

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

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