



St. Luke Lutheran Church

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

Dear St Luke family,

In the Schultz house, September means back-to-school season. Backpacks, school supplies, kids (and parents) are getting back into the school routine. And maybe this is also a good time for you to get back into another important routine.

Because maybe it's been a while. Maybe it's been a while since you've been in church. Maybe it's been a while since you opened your Bible. Maybe it's been a while since you spent time with Jesus. And if that's you, then the invitation is simple: Come back.

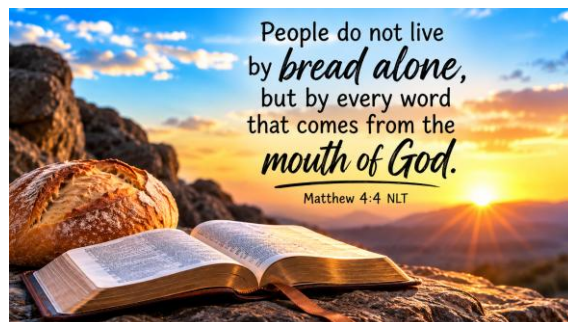
Not because God is keeping attendance. Not because you need to earn your way back into His good graces. Come back because Jesus want you here, because I wants you here. Jesus said, **"People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."** (Matthew 4:4).

As our kids return to school, we make sure they have everything they need. But the greatest thing our children, and all of us, need is Jesus. And so, as summer moves into fall, as schedules settle into that rhythm again, make worship part of your rhythm. Open your Bible again. Pray. Bring the kids to Sunday School and Youth events. Join us for Bible Study. Come and know Christ's gifts of forgiveness, grace, and love.

Whether it's been a few weeks, a few months, or even a few years, come back.

Come back to church.
Come back to the Bible.
Come back to Jesus.

Serving Him with you,
Pastor Phil



September 2026 Edition

Rev. Phil Schultz, Pastor

Pam Maconaghy, Editor

stlukechips@yahoo.com

Worship Schedule

Sundays at 9:00

Sundays at 11:00 am

In the Sanctuary

Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

Holy Communion

(Celebrated on the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays of the month and the Wednesdays that follow.)

What's inside	Page
Leadership/Contact Info	2
News	3
More News/Prayers	4
Calendar	5
Schedule/Birthdays	6
Note from Pastor	7

Our church is blessed with dedicated leadership committed to serving both our congregation and community with care and faithfulness. Office hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

MINISTRY STAFF

Pastor
Office Manger
Musician

Phil Schultz
Karen Baglio
Susan Errett

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President
Vice-President—Personnel
Vice-President—Property
Treasurer
Financial Secretary
Recording Secretary

Nancy Koehler
Bill Dunlop
Glenn Kilger
Linda Rowe
Dale Karcher
Debbie Fiebelkorn

CHURCH COUNCIL

Spiritual Life/Congregational Care
Stewardship
Outreach and Mission Services
Christian Education/Life

Media Relations
Special Care & Human Services
Youth and Family

Karen Baglio
Fred Schmitt
Kammy Ciesielski
Anne Schultz
Michelle Silverblatt
Tom Green
Open
Open

BOARD OF ELDERS

Karen Baglio (Head Elder)
Susanna Garofaro
Manfried Rieger
Tyler Silverblatt

Ron Connor
Craig Maconaghy
Allan Riemer

OTHER CONTACTS

Address/phone corrections
Altar Care
Altar Flowers
Bulletin Announcements
"CHIPS" Newsletter
Facility Maintenance
Facility Use (scheduling)
Food Pantry
Fund Raising Committee
LWML

Youth
Visitation
Sunday School Information
Weekly Contributions

Karen Baglio
Allan Riemer
Kathy Brogan
Karen Baglio
Pam Maconaghy
Glenn Kilger
Church Office
Robin Beane
Fred Schmitt
Ardys Lerch
Linda Rowe
Pastor Phil
Pastor Phil
Anne Schultz
Dale Karcher



Help us make sure our shelves are constantly 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)

Where to find us

Church Phone Number:
(716) 633-6752

Website:
www.stluke-buffalo.org

Facebook:
www.facebook.com/StLukeBuffalo

X (Twitter):
[@StLukeBuffalo](https://twitter.com/StLukeBuffalo)

YouTube:
youtube.com/c/stlukelutheranbuffalo

REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE RETURNS:

Beginning Sunday, September 13, we will return to our regular worship schedule with services on Sundays at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM, and Wednesdays at 7:00 PM. We look forward to worshipping with you this fall!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL RETURNS

SEPTEMBER 13! We are excited to welcome our children during the 11:00 am worship service!

- **Kingdom Crew** (1st–5th Grade): Children will explore God's Word through our new video-based curriculum, *Buck Denver Asks: What's in the Bible?* Each week includes engaging videos, discussion, and activities designed to build a strong biblical foundation and help children grow in their faith. (Middle school students are also welcome to participate in Kingdom Crew or remain in worship.)
- **Kingdom Kids** (Potty-Trained Age 3–Kindergarten): Children will enjoy Bible stories, songs, crafts, coloring, Play-Doh, and other activities in a loving and welcoming environment where they can learn about Jesus and know that church is a place where they belong.
- **Nursery** (Age 3 and Under): Nursery care is available in the Cry Room during the 11:00 a.m. service, providing a welcoming place for our youngest children and their families.

We look forward to another great year of learning, growing, and sharing the love of Jesus with our children!

Sunday School and Nursery BEGINS SOON, and we are still in need of volunteers to help cover some shifts! We are currently looking for volunteers for:

- **Nursery – 1st Sunday of each month**
- **Kingdom Kids – 1st Sunday of each month**
For ages 3 through Kindergarten — no lesson planning required!

If you are interested in helping, please contact Pastor Phil, Cinde Gross, Annie Schultz, or Michelle Silverblatt.

SUNDAY COFFEE HOUR GOODIES: Beginning Sunday, September 13th, we are asking our terrific bakers to provide something yummy for everyone to enjoy between Sunday Worship services! Not a baker? No problem – store-bought goodies are just as welcome! If you would like to help, please sign up on the sheet at the Welcome Desk.

YOUTH GLOW NIGHT: Sunday September 20th from 7-9pm. 6th-12 graders are invited for an unforgettable Glow Night filled with exciting black light games, music, food and tons of glowing fun! Sign up on the welcome desk, email Pastor Phil or text 716-249-1212 to RSVP or from more info.

FLU SHOTS: Flu shots will again be provided by Tops Pharmacy on Sunday, October 4, beginning after the 9:00 am service. If you would like to receive a flu shot or Covid booster, please sign up on the sheet at the Welcome Desk or call the church office. Required forms will be available soon.

SAFE DRIVER ACADEMY: We are trying to gauge interest in offering another Safe Driver Academy, like the one held last year. A minimum number of participants are needed before we can schedule a date with the instructor. If you are interested in participating, please add your name to the preliminary sign-up sheet on the Welcome Desk.

PART TIME CUSTODIAN: St. Luke is seeking a dependable part-time custodian to work 10-15 hours per week with a flexible schedule. If you are interested or would like more information or an application, please contact Pastor Phil, Glenn Kilger (Vice President of Properties) or Bill Dunlap (Vice President of Personnel)

MORTGAGE BURING CELEBRATION: Mark your calendars, we are planning an event for Sunday October 18th. We will have one service, followed by a celebration. More details will be coming soon.

KICKING OFF THE NEW YEAR will be held Sunday, **January 10, 2027**. This is a fun event as we honor various Volunteers. Who will receive our thanks this year? Come and find out!

BACK TO SCHOOL PRAYER



Dear Lord,

As our students begin a new school year, we pray that You would keep them in Your loving care. Send Your Holy Spirit to open their minds to all that is true, beautiful, and good.

Help them to recognize the gifts and talents You have given them and to use those gifts well. Help them to grow in knowledge and wisdom, in faith and understanding. Teach them to be kind and compassionate toward others and surround them with people who will show kindness and friendship to them.

Bless their teachers with patience, wisdom, and understanding. Give them joy in their work and help them to teach what is good, just, and true. Send Your holy angels to watch over our children, to guide and guard them, and to keep them from all harm. Open their hearts to Your presence, remind them that You are always with them, and surround them with Your peace and protection.

Hold them in the palm of Your hand throughout each day. Bless their learning, their friendships, and their growth, and bring them safely home at the end of each day.

We place our children, their teachers, and this new school year into Your loving hands.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

ONLINE GIVING UPDATE: If you give online, we have transitioned to Amplify by Ministry Brands. The good news is that your online giving information remains the same. The only change is that the EasyTithe app is no longer available. If you have any questions or experience any difficulties accessing your account or donating, please contact Pastor Phil for assistance.

To give online go to our website:
stluke-buffalo.org/give or
text "Give" to (716) 300 – 2700 or
scan the QR code



Building and Grounds Update: We have recently made several improvements to our church and parsonage properties. Our new boilers are currently being installed and will be up and running in time for the upcoming heating season. We replaced the gutters along the sanctuary. As part of the kitchen project, we replaced faucets and updated the plumbing. We also repaired the drainage system in the Maryvale parking lot. At the parsonage, we recently painted the living room and kitchen and repointed the brickwork. We are grateful to everyone who continues to help care for and maintain our church and parsonage properties.



- Bev Haist
- Marilyn Kozlowski
- Sean (neighbor of Jim Nietopski)
- Glenn & Kirk Evertt
- Brian Bartosik
- Max Brenzell
- Dan Vecchio
- Kathy Jones
- Nita Milkie
- Becky Zenger
- Kathy (sister of Karen DiPaolo)
- Victoria Hadley
- Helen Booth
- Billy Booth
- Tracy Nelson
- Barbara Postek
- Sandy (Bill Smith's Sister)
- Linda Harris
- Emily Zenger
- Donna Daly
- Jim (cousin of the Taylors)
- Percella Mims
- Thomas Pauly
- Wedding of Alec Zimmerman
- Scott Enser
- Ron Connor

SEPTEMBER 2026

Office Hours Monday – Thursday 8:30 am - 12:30 pm

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10-2:00pm Food Pantry 10:00am Tole Painters 6:30 pm Trustees 7:30pm Council Meeting	2	3	4 <u>Office Closed</u>	5
6 8:30am Outdoor Worship 10:00am Worship	7 LABOR DAY Office Closed	8 10-2:00 pm Food Pantry 10:00 am Tole Painters 7:30 Recovery mtg.	9 7:00 pm Worship	10 10:00 am Bulletin Folding	11 Office Closed	12
13 9:00 am Worship 11:00 am Worship & Sunday School and Nursery	14 7:00 pm Elders Mtg.	15 10-2:00pm Food Pantry 10:00am Tole Painters 7:30 Recovery mtg.	16 7:00pm Worship	17 10:00 am Bulletin Folding	18 Office Closed	19
20 9:00am Worship 11:00am Worship & Sunday School 7:00 – 9:00 pm Youth Glow Night	21	22 10-2:00 pm Food Pantry 10:00 am Tole Painters 7:30pm Recovery	23 7:00pm Worship	24 10:00 am Bulletin Folding	25 Office Closed	26
27 9:00am Worship 11:00am Worship & Sunday School	28	29 10-2:00pm Food Pantry 10:00am Tole Painters 7:30pm Recovery	30 7:00pm Worship			-

Worship Schedule for September 2026

		Time	September 6	September 13	September 20	September 27
Elder	9:00		Karen Baglio (8:30 am)	Karen Baglio	Karen Baglio	Allan Riemer
	11:00			Susan Garofaro		Tyler Silverblatt
Lector	9:00		Outdoor -----	Niecy Deakin -----	Karen Baglio -----	Allan Riemer -----
	11:00		Karen Machnica (10:00 am)	Nancy Koehler	Soul Celebration	Michelle Silverblatt
Communion Assistants	9:00		No communion -----	Niecy Deakin -----	No communion -----	Kathy Brogan -----
	11:00		No communion	Nancy Koehler	No communion	Michelle Silverblatt
Ushers	9:00		Outdoor -----	Skip Rohloff, Ken Knoll -----	John & Cinde Gross -----	Linda Rowe, Dale Karcher -----
	11:00		Ardys Lerch, Joe DiGiacomo (10:00 am)	Nelsons	Louise Mallon, Diane Palermo	Karen Machnica Rita Loeffler



Klein, Emilia	9/2	Nelson, Thomas	9/19
Bossert, Mark	9/3	Beane, TJ	9/20
Balko, Norbert	9/4	Nelson, Lynnette	9/20
Connor, Sue	9/6	Ciesielski, John Jr.	9/21
Sutton, Ashley	9/7	Parisi, Kristen	9/22
Tober, Amanda	9/9	Stawitz, Marissa	9/22
Saskowski, Owen	9/12	Rohloff, Mark Jr.	9/23
Schell Katarina	9/12	Rowe, Linda	9/23
Stawitz, Beverly	9/13	Ricks, Jayden	9/24
Borucki, McKenzie	9/14	Jacob Mages	9/26
Burns, Shayla	9/15	Lucas Mages	9/26
Webster, Joan	9/15	Dersam, Robert	9/27
Hart, Debra	9/16	Machnica, Elizabeth	9/29
Szefel, Mackenzie	9/17	Weiss, Ella	9/29



Dear St. Luke Family,

I want to share with you that I recently received a Call to serve as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Scarsdale, New York. (For those new to St. Luke, a Call is our denomination's way of a church formally inviting a pastor to serve them.)

First, I want you to know that I have not been seeking to leave St. Luke or looking for another church. I am thankful that God has called me to serve as pastor of St. Luke. However, our denomination, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, is currently experiencing a pastor shortage. Because of my age, experience, and style of ministry, I have been receiving several inquiries from churches throughout the country.

I have always said that I will go where God calls me, and because of that, I will always have an initial conversation with a church that reaches out to me, if for anything else to help our sister churches. So far, those conversations have reinforced God's will for me to remain here at St. Luke. However, sometimes a conversation may lead to another church Calling me.

Over the past weeks, Anne and I have spent time talking and praying. We have sought God's guidance, spoken with trusted friends in Christ, and prayerfully considered where the Lord is calling us to serve. After prayer and consideration, I have decided to decline the Call to Trinity Lutheran Church.

I am grateful to the people of Trinity for the confidence they placed in me, and I pray that God will continue to guide and bless them as they seek the pastor He has prepared to serve among them.

This process has also reminded me of the great need throughout our Synod. Congregations are faithfully waiting for pastors to serve them, and we need to pray for those churches and for God to raise more men to enter the pastoral ministry. Jesus tells us, ***"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few."*** (Matthew 9:37) St. Luke family, pray for our seminaries, pray for those considering church work, pray that the Holy Spirit would raise faithful servants to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

I am thankful for the ministry God has given us here at St. Luke, and I look forward to continuing to serve alongside you as long as He calls me here. May we be a church that shares the Gospel, reaches our community, and goes where God leads.

In Christ,
Pastor Phil

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900 Maryvale Drive
Cheektowaga, NY 14225**

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