



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.



January 2026

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

What is in This issue

Leadership	2
St. Luke News	3
Prayer list	3
Calendar	4
Birthdays	5
Volunteer Schedule	5

St. Luke Family,

As we enter January, it feels like the church year's chance to take a breath. The craziness of the Advent and Christmas season is over. Lights begin to come down, decorations get packed away, and I'll be honest, I always feel like the sanctuary looks a little empty when the decoration come down. Yet this is often where God does some of His best work. Not in the fireworks, but in the faithfulness. Not in the loud moments, but in the steady ones.

As we begin this new year, let us remember that God's mercies do not run on a calendar or a schedule. They show up when they need to show up, and here is the thing: for God, it's always right on time. Whatever this year holds, joy, challenge, change, or growth, don't step into it alone. Know that Christ goes before us, walks beside us, and holds us wherever the road we call 2026 leads. My prayer is that this year you listen, pray again, and trust the Lord God Almighty.

Thank you for being a fantastic church family that worships the Savior, serves and gives generously, and follows the New Command that Christ gave us. **So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are My disciples.” (John 13:34-35)** May this new year be marked not just by plans and goals, but by deeper faith, stronger hope, and wider love.

Serving Him with you,

Pastor Phil

A new commandment I give to you,

that you *love* one another;
just as I have *loved* you,
you also are to *love* one another.

By this all people will know
that you are my disciples,
if you have *love* for one another.

John 13:34-35

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	Dale Karcher	771-3542
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
Media Relations	Michelle Silverblatt	310-1413
Special Care & Human Services	Tom Green	685-8786
Youth and Family	Open	
	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 Maconaghay	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 Maconaghay	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	Marg Albert	875-9363
Youth Group	Pastor Phil	
Visitation	Pastor Phil	
Sunday School Information	Anne Schultz	276-3949
Weekly Contributions	Dale Karcher	771-3542



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**

	Households	People	Meals
Month	73	157	1413
2025	1100	2414	21,726

CHRISTMAS PLAY THANK YOU!
 We wish to thank all the children in this year's play, Skylar Burns, Adriana Cambio, Liv Hannel, Connor Monroe, Logan Pawli, Lily Schultz, Micah Schultz, Luke Vaccaro, Owen Vaccaro, Anthony Weaver, and Amelia Wojak, for all their hard work. Thank you to the families for your dedication, to the congregation for your support in this ministry. To Nancy Koehler for your help with the kids, to Diane Palermo, Linda Rowe, and Sophie Vaccaro for all your hard work, from helping with the kids, to making snacks, and making our beautiful cloud. To Susan Errett for all your musical and vast knowledge. Last but not least, Pastor Phil, for everything you did to help us. Sue Connor and Beth Hannel

And special thank you to Sue and Beth for doing such an excellent job planning and working with the children on the play. All your many hours are appreciated!

GIVING TREE THANK YOU:

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Giving Tree this year! We praise God for your kindness and generosity to the families in our local community and school district who might otherwise have difficulty making Christmas merry!

KICKING OFF THE NEW YEAR:

Sunday, January 11, 2026, we will celebrate our Annual "Kicking Off the New Year" event. On this special day, there will be one worship service at 10:00 am, immediately followed by a luncheon (Chicken Salad on a bed of lettuce, roll and butter, mini cream puffs for dessert, and drinks). During this festive gathering, we will take time to thank and honor our dedicated volunteers. Call the office to let us know you are coming to the lunch. We know the Bills play at 1:00 pm, so we will be done in time for you to get home for the game.

COFFEE HOUR TREATS SIGN-UP: There is a sign-up sheet in the fellowship area for anyone who would like to bring treats to serve with coffee between the services. We would love to have some new people sign up. Remember, store-bought treats are fine too!

JANUARY CONFIRMATION: Due to the New Year celebration kickoff, Confirmation Class will be on January 11 at 9:10 am in the small basement. See Pastor Phil if you have questions.

NEW MEMBERS CLASS: We are looking to start a new member class this winter. Those who are interested, contact the church office or place your name and email on the list on the welcome desk. Pastor Phil will contact you with the details.

THANK YOU! Thank you to everyone who supported the popcorn sale throughout the season. These fundraising efforts raised \$687. A BIG thank you to Fred and Betty Ann Schmitt for all their efforts in delivering and selling popcorn each week!

CONTRIBUTION

STATEMENTS: If you wish to receive a statement confirming your calendar year 2025 contributions to St. Luke, please print your name, envelope number, and date of your request on the sign-up sheet located on the welcome in the Fellowship Area. Statements will be available for pick-up in the red "STATEMENTS" box within seven days of your request.

THRIVENT CUSTOMERS:

Thrivent is offering clients (who are eligible) gift cards to local non-profits for their mission work. Our Food Pantry can qualify. Contact Thrivent to find out if your account can help our food pantry with this special gift.

PLEASE CONSIDER: If you have an IRA that you have yet to decide where to put your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) by the end of 2025, please 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 those distributions.

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
- Glenn Everett
- Brian Bartosik
- Max Brenzell
- Dan Vecchio
- Rick Baron & Eddy Thoric (Friends of the Taylors)
- Carol Deitrick
- Betty Walters
- David Beicke
- Mackenzie Maconaghy
- Tracy Nelson
- Kathy Jones
- Kathy Dehne
- Nita Milkie
- Nancy (friend of Ardys Lerch)
- Don Rottger
- Kathleen (Jim Nietopski's sister)
- Family of Renate Kramer
- Family of Melissa Divine
- Dominica Urbaniak (Connie William's mom on her 100th birthday)

JANUARY 2026

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 during 11:00am Worship

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 Epiphany 9:00am Worship 11:00am Worship & Sunday School	5 7:00pm Elder's Mtg.	6 10:2:00pm Food Pantry 10:00am Tole Painters 6:30pm Trustee Mtg. 7:00pm Council mtg. 7:30pm Recovery	7	8 9:00am Paper Cuts 10:00am Bible Study	9 Office Closed	10 3:00pm Girl Scout mtg.
11 1st Sunday after Epiphany 10:00am Worship Kick Off the New Year Celebration with luncheon	12	13 10:2:00pm Food Pantry 10:00am Tole Painters 7:30pm Recovery	14	15 9:00am Paper Cuts 10:00am Bible Study	16 Office Closed	17 9:00am Fundraising mtg.
18 2nd Sunday after Epiphany 9:00am Worship 11:00am Worship & Sunday School	19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day	20 10:2:00pm Food Pantry 10:00am Tole Painters 7:30pm Recovery	21	22 9:00am Paper Cuts 10:00am Bible Study	23 Office Closed	24 3:00pm Girl Scout mtg.
25 3rd Sunday after Epiphany 9:00am Worship 11:00am Worship & Sunday School	26	27 10:2:00pm Food Pantry 10:00am Tole Painters 7:30pm Recovery	28	29 9:00am Paper Cuts 10:00am Bible Study	30 Office Closed	31

Lori Brand	1/1	Anna Dersam	1/14	Lilli Steltermann	1/29
Jacqueline Dunlap	1/2	Charles Silverblatt	1/14	Anna Baranetsky	1/30
William Beicke	1/2	Emily Dersam	1/16	Olivia Hannel	1/31
Joshua Maconaghy	1/2	Rose Marmion-Bort	1/16	Sarah Kellner	1/31
Carly Taylor	1/2	Karen DiPaolo	1/17		
London Becker	1/3	Donald Eggert	1/17		
Avery Biegasiewicz	1/5	Eloise Dunlap	1/18		
Jacob Ruppert	1/5	Edward Willert	1/20		
Virginia Becker	1/6	Taylor Smith	1/24		
Phil Horn	1/6	Kevin Brogan	1/25		
Anne Schultz	1/6	Kayla DeLeon	1/26		
Michelle Silverblatt	1/7	Mason Hanel	1/26		
Raelyn Vrenna-Martinez	1/8	Courtney Beane	1/27		
John Brado	1/10	Andrew Kaun	1/27		
Amelia Wojcik	1/12	Colleen Gaczewski	1/27		
Logan Connor	1/13	Ella Nawojski	1/29		



	Time	January 11 (10 am service)	January 18	January 25
Greeters	9:00		Linda Rowe	Allen & Arlene Riemer
	11:00	Ardys Lerch	Marg Albert	Nicki Tober
Lector	9:00		Ron Connor	Allan Riemer
	11:00	Louise Mallon	Soul Celebration	Karen Machnica
Communion Assistant	9:00	Ed Loeffler		Kathy Bogan
	11:00			Anne Schultz
Elder	9:00	Susan Garofaro	Ron Connor	Allan Riemer
	11:00		Soul Celebration	Craig Maconaghy
Counter		Linda Rowe, Ken Knoll	Linda Rowe, Ken Knoll	Linda Rowe, Ken Knoll
Ushers	9:00	Skip Rohloff, Ken Knoll	John & Cinde Gross	Glenn Kilger, Ken Knoll
	11:00	Tom Nelson, Don Becker	Louise Mallon, Diane Palermo	Karen Machnica, Rita Loeffler
Altar Care			Karen Baglio	

St. Luke Lutheran Church

900 Maryvale Drive
Cheektowaga, NY 14225

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

**U.S. Postage
PAID
Non-Profit Org.
Permit #644
Buffalo, NY**

Address Service Requested