

## ***A Message from Pastor Barnett***



“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.” 1 Corinthians 9:24-25

Lent is that time in Spring which invites a sense of renewal, a chance to clear out the clutter that accumulates over time in our hearts. Just as we engage in spring cleaning to make our physical spaces more inviting and organized, this season calls us to reflect on our spiritual lives. Lent, as a period of preparation and introspection, offers an opportunity to assess and clean the spiritual nooks and crannies of our lives, allowing us to focus on what nourishes our souls rather than what weighs us down. The practice of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving during this time can serve as our spiritual broom, sweeping away distractions and helping us realign our priorities with our faith.



In this context, religious services take on profound significance as communal spaces for believers to gather, share experiences, and refocus on God. During Lent, we explore themes of repentance and hope. Our gatherings become moments of collective spring cleaning, where we confess, seek forgiveness, and draw strength from shared faith. In a world that prioritizes individualism, worship reminds us of our interconnectedness within the church.

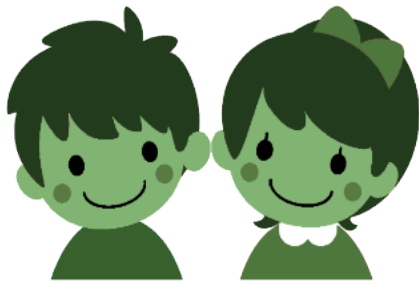
The Covid pandemic exacerbated challenges related to spiritual discipline and community engagement, leading to a loss of regular fellowship and making it difficult to maintain spiritual routines. While online services provided a lifeline, they often lacked the tactile warmth of in-person gatherings. This experience highlighted the importance of commitment to spiritual practices and community, prompting us to reconsider our faith engagement. Without the accountability of physical gatherings, many have struggled to uphold their spiritual disciplines, raising questions about fostering genuine connection and growth in the digital age.

As we look to the future of Lent, we must consider how it intersects with the culture of convenience that permeates our modern lives. In a world where instant gratification reigns and fast food is available at every corner, many have grown accustomed to picking what they desire with minimal effort. This convenience mentality can extend to spiritual practices, leading to a lack of discipline in our faith lives. Lent calls us to embrace struggle, sacrifice, and intentionality—practices that may feel counter-cultural in an age that offers immediate satisfaction. How can we reclaim the essence of Lent as a spiritual discipline in the face of these challenges? By recognizing that true nourishment comes not from hastily consumed pleasures but from a deeply rooted faith, we can find a way forward that upholds the spirit of Lent and embraces the richness of spiritual discipleship amidst the pull of convenience.

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.” Romans 12:1-2  
Pr Ed Barnett



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).



Winter brings many diverse activities to **St. Luke's ECEC.**

Of course, February celebrates Valentine's Day with classroom parties and activities centered around this holiday. February also brings our Random Acts of Kindness school wide program, in which teachers reward children's kind acts towards others.

In addition, every February we invite a local dental hygienist, Miss Katie, in to teach our children about proper dental health care. As you can see in the photo everyone enjoys this lesson!

St. Luke's musical treasure, Dr. Gene, is shown teaching bongo playing to children. This is just one of the many instruments that Dr. Gene introduces the children to during the school year.



Lastly, Miss Donna and Miss Alexis' class had lessons related to cardinals and the symbolism they represent. In the project shown, the message on the snow globe states: "When cardinals appear, angels are near."



## FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY

### SOUP-ER BOWL CHALLENGE

St Luke's did it!! They predicted the winner of the 59th Super Bowl, donating 168 cans of soup for the Eagles and 34 cans for the Chiefs. Though we didn't reach the challenge of collecting 300 cans of soup, we did donate 252 cans of soup along with a check to the LSS pantry in Franklin Square.



Thank you all for caring and sharing!



The Youth Group at St. Luke's is back! All students who have made their confirmation are invited to join us for bimonthly meetings. We also hold fun social events like bowling and cookie decorating. Our meetings run from 11:00 am to Noon on Sundays, following the 10:00 am church service. Our next meetings will be March 9th and 16th, and April 6th and 13th. Please see the church bulletin for more details. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out to Gabriella Marsico at [gmarsico@udel.edu](mailto:gmarsico@udel.edu)



**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

We are excited to share some updates about the upcoming events and activities for our Sunday School students. There are a lot of exciting things on the horizon, and we can't wait for you to join us!

Our Movie Night has been rescheduled to a later date, which we hope will work better for more families. We will share the new date soon and look forward to an enjoyable evening of fun and fellowship for all ages. Please keep an eye out for more details!

On Sunday, March 16, we will once again celebrate Pretzel Sunday. This special event offers a meaningful opportunity for our children to learn about the tradition behind the pretzels. The pretzels are folded to represent praying hands, and the three holes symbolize the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It's a beautiful way to combine faith and tradition in a hands-on way.

We're also excited to announce our Annual Easter Egg Hunt, which will take place on Saturday, April 19, at 10:00 AM in the courtyard. This is always a fun event for families, and we invite you to join us for an exciting egg hunt as we celebrate the joy of the Easter season together.

First Holy Communion classes will begin on March 9. These classes are an important milestone for our children, and we're looking forward to walking alongside them in this special journey. The curriculum will include a special Altar Talk with Pastor, where the children will learn more about the sacredness of the altar. Additionally, there will be a team-building bread-making session to help deepen their understanding of the Eucharist and the significance of the Communion bread.

We hope these events bring joy, faith, and a sense of community to our Sunday School families. Thank you for being part of this special journey with us!



# All New St. Patrick's Day Celebration

SATURDAY, MARCH 15TH  
6:15PM RIGHT AFTER THE 5PM MASS  
ST. KILIAN'S AUDITORIUM  
50 CHERRY STREET



STEP DANCERS FROM THE  
INISFREE SCHOOL OF DANCE

LIVE MUSIC BY THE FENIAN BROTHERS  
A 4 PIECE BAND!



CATERED BY FELICO'S OF  
FARMINGDALE  
ENJOY DELICIOUS IRISH FARE



BAGPIPE PERFORMANCE BY  
THE WANTAGH-AMERICAN  
LEGION PIPE BAND



Invite your friends and celebrate in our Irish Fashion!

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Tickets on sale now!



# St. Patrick's Day Celebration

Enjoy delicious Irish fare  
Catered by Felico's of Farmingdale

(caterers for the St. Kilian Volunteer Dinner last year)

Dinner Menu:  
Guinness Braised Corned Beef and Cabbage  
Red Potatoes & Carrots in Butter

Shepherd's Pie  
Irish Soda Bread  
Beer, Wine & Soda



Use this QR code to purchase your tickets online.

For more info, call the rectory at (516) 249-0127.

Ticket sales deadline is Fri., March 7!



## LIFT - Living in Faith Together

In observance of Women's History Month in March, LIFT is organizing a collection drive to support agencies that provide assistance to women affected by domestic violence and child abuse. Your contributions are greatly appreciated during the period of March 2nd to March 30th. Please consider donating from the following list: hairbrushes, soap, shampoo & conditioner, body wash, deodorant, feminine hygiene products, washcloths or loofahs. For children the list includes: Diapers across sizes, tooth brushes and tooth paste, wipes, baby body wash, baby shampoo.

Collection bins will be in the PAC. Thank you for your generosity in giving.

# CHARCUTERIE BOARD WORKSHOP

A fun filled evening was experienced on Friday, February 7th, when over 65 people learned food styling, creating Salami Roses, Prosciutto Ribbons, Cheddar Zippers, Gouda Fans and Colby Jack Cubes. They then learned how to design the boards with all the accoutrements to create "edible art"! A special "thank you" to Long Island Tastees, Lori Andersen Tirado, Claudia Colon, Daniel Colon and Zachary Macchio for sharing their talents. This event was sponsored by the Fellowship Committee.



### Deacon Carol's "Pray without ceasing" Prayer Ministry



In honor of Deacon Carol Germann, we are continuing her legacy of faith under the ministry name of Deacon Carol's "pray without ceasing" ministry.

If you are interested in being a part of this ministry as a praying disciple please email Rita Ciccotelli at [secretary@stlukesfarmingdale.org](mailto:secretary@stlukesfarmingdale.org) and provide your name, cell number and email address, to be included in the praying chain. (Cell phone text chain will be used for all immediate prayer needs).

By participating in this ministry, you will continue Deacon Carol's belief in the **power of prayer**. Once all praying disciples have been confirmed we will organize the ministry, provide prayer guidance and a list of individuals in need of prayears.

For more information, please contact Deacon Frances at [deaconcrusco@gmail.com](mailto:deaconcrusco@gmail.com).

**"Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**



**SUNDAY, MARCH 9TH  
2:00 AM**



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

**VOLUNTEER(S) NEEDED:** A volunteer or two to serve as a Hospitality Chair(s) for coffee hour to coordinate scheduling and obtaining supplies. Contact Katie Petruzzo - [katiepet@verizon.net](mailto:katiepet@verizon.net)

It's eight 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.

# Messages of Thanks from our Deacons

Someone asks you: "How do you see Jesus? When and where?" I see him at St. Luke's. The people of St. Luke's saw a stranger along the road and they welcomed him and his wife Nancy. Thank you for the vote of confidence and for shining Jesus at me.

I give St. Luke's this prayer that I say everyday.

**Blessings and Peace, Deacon Bob+++**

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change;  
the courage to change the things I can;  
and the wisdom to know the difference.  
Living one day at a time;  
enjoying one moment at a time;  
accepting hardships as the pathway to peace;  
taking, as He did, this sinful world as it is, not as I would have it;  
trusting that He will make all things right if I surrender to His Will;  
that I may be reasonably happy in this life and supremely happy with Him forever in the next. Amen

- Reinhold Niebuhr (1892-



A heartfelt thank you to Pastor Barnett and to all of St. Luke's for renewing my call as a Deacon for the church. Your continued support of my ministries in service to our Lord is a blessing to me and I pray to always honor God and His church with the gifts He has given. **Thank you Deacon Frances.**

**1 Peter 4:10 "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." Amen**

## COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Thank you to all who braved the winter weather to attend our annual meeting on February 9th. We managed to pull together a quorum with 52 in attendance allowing us to proceed with business. Thank you to all our council members and committee chairs for your contributions to the report. There are copies in the office for those who couldn't attend. Dan Hribok presented the 2024 treasurer's report followed by the 2025 proposed budget. He skillfully answered all questions and the congregation approved the budget. A big thank you to our outgoing council members Barbara Bertschi, Carol Golden and Lori McLaughlin who have served faithfully for the past six years. Additional thanks to our continuing council members Gary Boulanger, Maricel Farrell, Sue Ahickey, Dan Hribok, Barbara Marsico, Melissa Simpson, Rick Tarello, Madeline Tekverk, Nancy Wohlsen and Peter Crusco who was approved for his second term to council. At our February council meeting we voted on our 2025 executive board to consist of myself serving a second term as President, Gry Boulanger a second term as Vice President, Dan Hribok continuing as Treasurer and Peter Crusco continuing as Secretary. We look forward to a productive year of service as your representatives in the work of St. Luke's Church and we are available if you have any questions.

Lent is coming up quickly and hopefully spring won't be far behind. I hope we can all find time to reflect on our many blessings and gifts and find ways to use them to further God's work through our hearts and hands here at St. Luke's.



You are invited to be a blessing to others by sharing the presence of Christ through the Eucharistic Ministry. Eucharistic ministers share their faith with others through the distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion. Eucharistic ministers visit church members when they are unable to go to worship services. Visits are made at least

once a month and are typically at a member's home, hospital, rehab, or nursing facility.

Please contact Deacon Frances at [deaconcrusco@gmail.com](mailto:deaconcrusco@gmail.com), or Rita Ciccotelli at [secretary@stlukesfarmingdale.com](mailto:secretary@stlukesfarmingdale.com), if you would like to be a Eucharistic minister.

Also let us know if you or anyone else you know is unable to attend worship services and needs a Eucharistic minister to make a visit. (Any new volunteers to this ministry will be trained.)



### MARCH 4TH

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner - 6:30 pm - Parish Activities Center  
- Burning of the palms at 6:30 pm with dinner to follow

### MARCH 5TH

Ash Wednesday - 10:30 am & 7:00 pm services

### SUNDAY SERVICES

8:30 am and 10:00 am

### WEDNESDAYS during LENT - MARCH 12th to APRIL 9th

Midday Prayer - 11:30 am

Evening Prayer - 7:00 pm

### PALM SUNDAY

April 13th - 8:00 am and 10:00 am

Fellowship Hall

### HOLY WEEK - APRIL 14th to APRIL 16th

Monday - Wednesday Eucharist at 12 noon

### MAUNDY THURSDAY - APRIL 17th

12 noon and 7:00 pm

### GOOD FRIDAY - APRIL 18th

Family/Children - Stations of the Cross at 10:00 am

Passion Liturgy - 12 noon

Stations of the Cross - 7:00 pm

### HOLY SATURDAY - APRIL 19th

Easter Egg Hunt at 10:00 am in the Courtyard - ages up to Grade 5

### EASTER SUNDAY - APRIL 20th

8:00 am and 10:00 am in Fellowship Hall

**Unless otherwise noted, worship services are in the Sanctuary of the Church. Confessions heard by appointment.**



The 2024-25 St. Luke's Hoops basketball season is well underway and it's shaping up to be an exciting year! 225 players from grades K-9 hit the courts beginning in October for weekly practices led by over 40 awesome volunteer coaches. We purposely formed small

teams based on player assessments to make sure everyone has a fair shot at the action. Our weekend games began in January, and we're gearing up for our very own "March Madness" - with playoffs and Championship games around the corner. It's going to be a thrilling finish!

While we didn't get enough sign-ups to fully support our older players in house this year, we're excited to welcome them back in future seasons, especially as we continue to nurture a love for the game in our younger players.

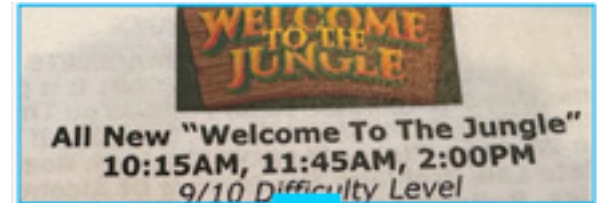
A huge shoutout to our amazing volunteer coaches and supportive parents who are making this season one to remember! Thanks to all of you, we're keeping the rich tradition of athletic competition, sportsmanship, and Christian fellowship alive - everything that's made this program a success for so many years. Let's keep the fun rolling!!

# ST. LUKE'S POP-UP BOUTIQUE

THANK YOU, to all who came to the POP UP Valentine Boutique. All proceeds go to helping with projects around St Luke's.

Be sure to come to our Spring/Easter Boutique on Sunday, April 6th, following the 8:30 and 10:00 am services.

We're sure there will be something special for every bunny!!



Getting serenaded and singing along with Ben Claase and Bobby Baumann during "Ballads and Blues".

Celebrating the Year of the Snake with Chinese Zodiac placemats, fortune cookies and a Lion Dance Head.