



Announcements

**December 24,
2025**

**Welcome to our weekly
Announcements email!**

Enjoy reading the important
news and events at St. Luke
Lutheran Church & Campus
Ministry. And remember, God
loves you!

**In this week's Announcements
you can read about:**

- Pr. Jason's Christmas Letter
- Poinsettias
- Christmas Eve Services
- Lessons and Carols
- Feeding the Hungry
- Give Warmth: Mittens N' More
- Church Staff hours
- Praying Together

Christmas Letter from Pr. Jason

“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid, for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.’” (Luke 2:10–11)

Beloved in Christ, grace and peace to you this Christmas.

I often wonder what it must have felt like to hear those words for the very first time. *Good news of great joy for all the people.* After generations of longing, after silence and uncertainty, after fear had become a familiar companion—suddenly an angel breaks open the night with hope.

I imagine those shepherds blinking in disbelief.

Could this really be for us? For people like us? For a world like ours?

And maybe that is the most important question of all:

Do you believe this message is for you?

Because the birth we celebrate is not an old story we dust off once a year. It is the ongoing promise of God breaking into the world—into *our* world—with courage, tenderness, and joy. Emmanuel, God-with-us, arrives in vulnerability: wrapped in cloth, laid in a manger, entrusted to ordinary people who dared to believe that God’s love could take on flesh.

And that love keeps arriving.

At the table.

In our community.

In the small, human connections that knit our lives together.

Through the students, faculty, alumni, neighbors, and friends who form the heartbeat of St. Luke.

In our online gatherings and face-to-face moments.

In every act of ministry and every step toward justice, mercy, and belonging.

This is the good news we proclaim together—that Christ is born *for all people*, including you, including us, including the world that still waits for peace.

As we continue this ministry of welcome, hope, and liberation, I invite you, if you are able, to make a special Christmas offering. It is a gift that will strengthen our worship, our campus ministry, our outreach, and the daily work of love that defines St. Luke.

Your generosity embodies the very joy we celebrate.

My prayer is that this holy season fill you with wonder.

That Christ’s birth will stir up bold hope in you.

And I also pray that love find you, surround you, and send you out rejoicing.

Merry Christmas, dear ones. And blessings for a bright, courageous, joy-filled New Year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason", with a large, looping initial "J" and a trailing flourish.

Pr. Jason

[Give Here](#)

Christmas Eve Services

December 24

5:00 pm - The Christmas Story for Children and Adults

9:00 pm - Holy Communion and Candlelight

St. Luke Lutheran Church

109 Oak Ave, Ithaca, NY

All are welcome without exception.



All are welcome, without exception, to come and celebrate Christmas Eve together with us. We offer two services, one at 5:00pm which is shorter and involves children helping to bring the characters to the manger scene as the story is told through words and carols. No communion or sermon will be offered, but we still definitely sing Silent Night by candlelight.

The later service at 9:00 pm is the traditional Holy Communion service with many carols, a choral anthem, and Silent Night sung by candlelight. Merry Christmas!



THANK YOU
to everyone who has
given Poinsettias to
decorate our sanctuary.

Poinsettias have been given from:

Barabara & Carrie (2) in memory of Donald Christensen.

The Dodici Family in memory of family members Bud, Dot, Lino, and Barb.
Maggie Gardner (1).

Angus and Joan Godwin (1) in honor of their grandchildren.

Jim and Betta Hedlund (1).

Susan Hoskins (3) in memory of Herman and Henrietta Bolle.

Marnie Johnson and others in memory of Herb Johnson and Sara.

The Jung Family (1) in memory of Bob and Millie Jung.

Terry and Diane Kelleher (1) in memory of Phil Shapiro.

Travis, Rhonda, Carson, and Grace Kitsch (1) in memory of Carson's organ donor, Elijah, and Grace's birth family.

Velma Markwardt (1) in memory of Everett Markwardt.

The McGee Family in memory of Ron McGee.

Emily and Joe Metz (3) in memory of Bennett Dominick, Virginia Metz and Christine Metz Monte.

Deborah Montgomery and Andy Cove (1) in honor of our children and grandchildren.

Deborah Montgomery (1) in memory of Eileen Williams, my sister.

The Nelson Family (3) in memory of Russell, Ruth, and Esther Nelson; Franklin and Annette Bassette. And in honor of Danielle Nelson; US Military Service Members and their families.

Harry Shaw and Judy Jensvold (1) in memory of Robert and Harriet Shaw, Harry's parents.
Laura Gathagan & Kevin Sheets, Alex Sheets & Will Sheets (1) in honor of Carole & Henry Gathagan.

Brad Wendel and Liz Peck (2) in honor of our families, far and near.

Lessons & Carols - December 28th

Our Lessons and Carols this year on December 28th will focus on the Gospel according to Matthew and include a video sermon from Rev. Imani Olear, the ELCA Director for Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop. Music from Jeff Snedeker will be based on the Christmas carol, "From Heaven Above"

PARTICIPATE IN THE GOOD WORK

Feed the Hungry

DECEMBER items for the Red Wagon:

Pasta and Pasta sauce-- with or without meat. **Those donations can be canned, liquid, or glass, they are not left out in the cold.**

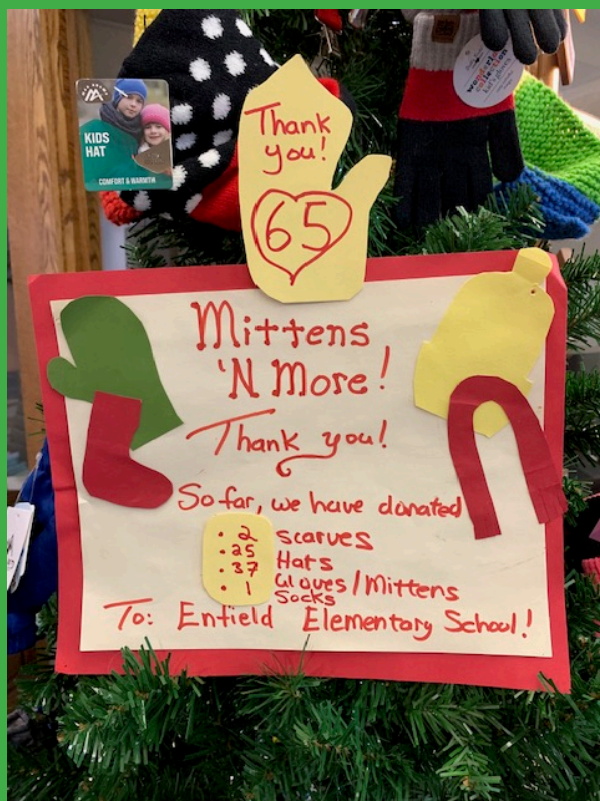
Winter is upon us and freezing weather means cans and glass containers could explode in our blue cabinet! For the next few months please bring packaged soups, tuna, and boxed dinners, instead of canned. Pasta sauce, peanut butter and jam should be in plastic jars. Cereal, oatmeal, macaroni and cheese, pasta, protein bars and toiletpaper are always welcome. Thank you for supporting this ministry!

Blue Wagon for the Blue Cabinet: This cabinet is re-filled 3-4 times a week as food insecurity has been growing even here in our Collegetown Neighborhood. All non perishable food items are welcome but the most popular items are soup, peanut butter, mac n' cheese, protein bars, and personal care items.
DURING WINTER NO CANS OR GLASS.



GIVE WARMTH: Mittens 'N More

Mittens 'N More: Great news, we are halfway to our goal of collecting 144 items (a dozen dozen) — with 8 items on the tree and 65 bagged up and ready to go to Enfield Elementary, we've collected 73 items so far. Our Mittens 'N More tree will be up in St. Luke's narthex starting on Sunday November 16th, and will be up through Advent, Christmas, and the first part of Epiphany. All donations will go to children in need in the Ithaca City School District. Place your store bought or handmade mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, and scarves sized for school-aged children on the tree or in the donation box next to the tree. And yes, you can mail order items and have them sent directly to St. Luke: Mittens'N More, 109 Oak Avenue, Ithaca, NY 14850. Thank you for helping to keep heads, hands, and feet of children warm this winter.



Church Staff during the holidays:

Pastor Jason and Erik will be away with family for the holidays from December 25 to January 4th. Kimberly will be checking her email remotely on a limited bases during the holidays.

We pray together...

... for Heather, Benn, Rhonda, Ernie, Kathy, Marjorie, Christine, Jennifer, Dorthea, for all those traveling this holiday season, and all those that are feeling insecure, hungry, and scared. We pray for those across the world celebrating Christmas, especially in places of war and unrest like Gaza and the Holy Land, Sudan, Myanmar, and anywhere else violence is disrupting the peace that is Christmas.

Upcoming commemorations of saints, renewers of society, and other festivals can be [found here](#).

Prayers are added weekly to our list and will remain for three weeks. If you wish to extend the name of the person for whom we are praying please inform the office. To add someone to the prayer list please email [the Communications Manager](#).

Calendar

Wednesday, December 24 Christmas Eve

5:00 pm. The Nativity Story for Children & Adults

9:00 pm. Holy Communion and Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 28

10:00 am. Lessons & Carols

Tuesday, December 30

No Bible Study today

The Office will be closed for the Holidays from December 25 to January 4.

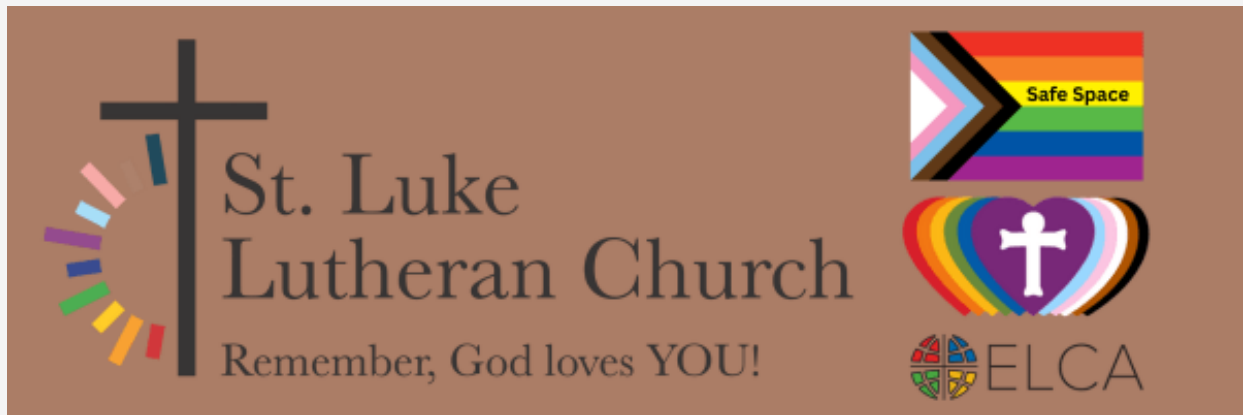
*After the holidays, the St. Luke Office will be open: Mon. 1 pm-5 pm, Tues. 9:30 am-1 pm,
Wed. 8am-4pm, Thur. 9:30 am-5pm, Fri. 9:30 am-1pm*

***If you would like to be removed from this list, please reply or [send us an email](#)
with UNSUBSCRIBE in the subject line. We will be sad to see you go.
Remember, God loves you!***

Website

Give

Calendar



Service of Holy Communion ~ Sundays at 10:00 am

St. Luke is a **Reconciling in Christ Congregation** of the **ELCA**. As a Reconciling in Christ Congregation, the people of St. Luke Lutheran Church are called by God to be a community of Christians, a part of the body of Christ. Because we believe we are one in God's eyes, we welcome the mix of ages, races, gender identities, physical and mental capabilities, and sexual orientations with which God's children are blessed. Everyone is invited to share in God's grace. We rejoice in the knowledge that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus--not our wealth, nor our poverty, nor our nationality, nor our political convictions, nor whom we love, nor anything else in all creation. We are called to follow God's mission of reconciliation and justice with all humanity, and we celebrate our journey of discipleship with a special appreciation for the privileged responsibility of our campus related ministry.

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Our mailing address is:
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