

The New Humanity

a monthly newsletter from



August 2026

The New Humanity, affectionally referred to as the "NuHu," is inspired by Ephesians 2:15: *"that Christ might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace."* This longer, monthly newsletter includes articles from staff and one committee in addition to the regular weekly announcements. May we be reminded of our New Humanity in Christ as we read and reflect together.

This month's contents:

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From the Pastor's Fireside

Pastor Jason Churchill



A Small Back-to-School Thought

How is it already August? I imagine I cannot be the only one asking that question.

With August comes the familiar rhythm of preparing for a new academic year. Some are packing up to move into a residence hall or apartment—perhaps for the very first time. Others are putting the finishing touches on a syllabus, organizing a classroom, or stocking up on school supplies. For many, this season brings both excitement and a little uncertainty.

Even if you are no longer directly connected to a school calendar, being part of the St. Luke community means you are part of this season, too.

One of the great joys of our congregation is that we share life together across generations. As students, faculty, and staff return to Cornell and Ithaca College, we have the opportunity to welcome them—not simply back to campus, but into a community where they are known, cared for, and reminded that they belong.

On Sunday, **August 30**, we will celebrate our **Welcome Back Sunday**. We are still planning the details, and we'd love your ideas. Should we enjoy ice cream after worship? Share a potluck luncheon in the fellowship hall? Whatever we decide, it will be another opportunity to gather, reconnect, and extend hospitality—especially since our church picnic was (almost!) rained out this year.

As we prepare for the months ahead, I leave you with these words from Joshua 1:9:

"Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Whether you are heading into a classroom, beginning a new chapter, returning to familiar routines, or simply walking the ordinary path of daily life, take comfort in this promise: wherever you go, God is already there, walking with you.



Committee Spotlight

Parish Education Committee
by Amanda Kempf

Godly Play: Making meaning through story,

wonder, and play. This is the mission ascribed to the parish education program that we've been using at St. Luke, and everyone has really been enjoying the initiative! Our church school sessions begin with a gathering after service, often combining music and movement to bring the group together and initiate focus. We then move into the classroom, forming a circle around The Storyteller, and settle in for the "story".



The stories are told precisely, with scripted words and intentional movements so the children can completely focus on the spiritual mystery of the narrative. Afterward, we "wonder" together as a group with open-ended discussion that allows the children to discover personal meaning and their own divine experience.

The group is then invited to "work" (play!) for a time and everyone is able to choose their own activity. Kids can explore any of the physical story sets, use whatever materials they prefer (blocks, paints, clay, etc.) and can opt to work individually or in groups. This time is flexible and can look very different from one session to the next! Everyone helps to clean up the space after they're done, in preparation for the closing feast...

The feast is a time for the kids to come together, join in prayer, and share a community snack in fellowship. This serves as both Communion practice and a transition back to their families, and is a casual & joyful ending to our time together.

Through the Godly Play framework, we've been able to really engage the kids in scripture and celebrate learning through play and wonder. We have a lot of room to grow, however, and could really use some help from the Parish at large! There are MANY ways to help, and we welcome:

- [craft/labor donations](#) (installing shelves, painting the classroom, etc.)
- [monetary donations](#) (to purchase classroom supplies and Godly Play sets)
- [interest in learning to be the Door Person or Storyteller](#) for upcoming classes
- [volunteers to lead the gathering time](#) (group music/song or dance, etc.)
- [snack & feast donations \(easy and fun!\)](#)

Our kids have so much to share (we often remark on how much we learn from them each class!) so I hope you'll reach out to learn how you can get involved. Please [email](#) me with questions or if you're able to help out. We have lots of volunteer options, including many one-time help opportunities--and thank you to everyone who has contributed so far...the kids appreciate it!



From the Loft

Erik Kibelsbeck
Music Director

Thank you to all the musicians who have shared their gifts to enhance worship this summer: Sophie Sparrow, Aara Edwards, Patrice Pastore, John Knight, Leo Gonta, Lauren Mossotti-Kline, Reid Kline, Katrina Kuka, Brad Wendel, and Judy Tennant and grandsons. Thanks also to Jeff Snedeker and Kristin Zaryski who covered for me during my vacation weeks.

Choir will resume on August 23 and new members are welcome, just be in touch. Rehearsals are just 8:30 on Sunday mornings, no weeknights. We will also switch to using setting one again for the service then. For much of the fall (all but the Season of Creation in September) we'll also offer a different perspective on the psalms, with congregational refrains and a variety of ways of choral proclamation of the verse. We have been doing it one way for quite a number of years, hopefully this will be a refreshing change.

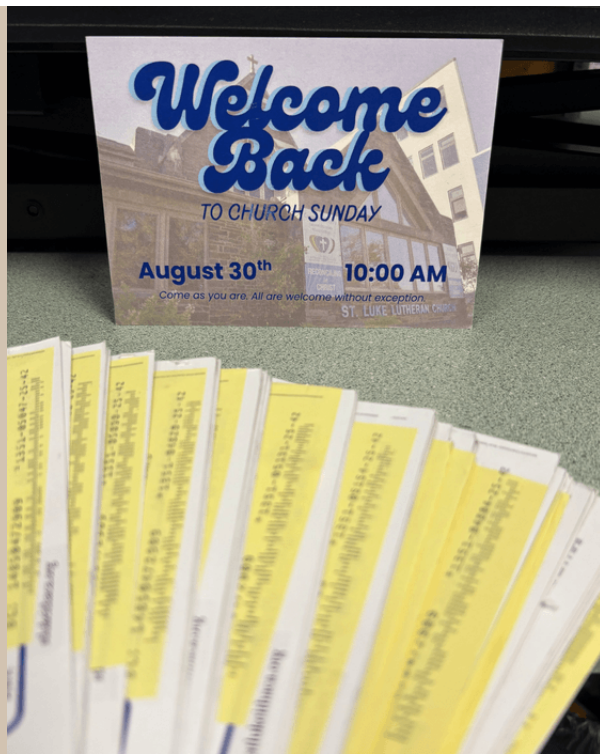
point & click

Kimberly Fick
Communications Manager



I began this summer with two main goals: update all our alumni contacts and create a complete system for archiving all of St. Luke's files. I am very happy to report that the alumni project is well under way and hopefully producing some wonderful re-connections!

In order to update our information, I met with PB to access some old contact lists that he had maintained and converted the files to ones I could use. I worked through the list of over 3,000 names to clean up the multiple entries and individuals who have passed on to glory. I created a postcard that we are mailing out to folks, inviting them to update



their information and come back to church either virtually or in person on August 30th.

I sent out the first batch of cards last week and have already received a handful of address corrections. Today I'm looking forward to sending out a second batch. Once all the cards with the incorrect addresses come back and I update our contacts, we will hopefully have a more complete and up-to-date database!

Why all the work to re-connect with alumni? Because maintaining a connection with people who have been a part of this community shows that we care about them *and* that they are still an integral part to the work we are doing together. Over 26,000 students at Cornell, 4500 students at Ithaca College, and 32,000 Ithaca "townies" are deeply loved by God - and most of them don't know it yet. The work we do as a church to remind them of God's love and tangibly show them God's love is work that stretches far beyond what any one of us can do on our own. It takes alumni who remember what this place gave them, members who show up faithfully Sunday (virtual or in-person!), and neighbors who have yet to walk through the church doors but know they want to belong to a community like ours. That's the whole point of a new humanity: a community that works together so that our world that can experience the peace of Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

If you haven't updated your contact info in a while, please [click here](#) to do so!

Announcements





Why Are These Portraits in Our Narthex?

This Sunday, you will notice two large portraits displayed in the narthex (lobby). They are of Lorenzo Salgado Araujo and Johan Sebastián Durán Guerrero, two men who were killed during recent ICE operations.

These portraits were first carried and displayed during the community vigil held in Ithaca, where people of many faith traditions gathered to grieve, to pray, and to stand in solidarity with those who live in fear because of violence, detention, and the uncertainty surrounding immigration enforcement. Since that gathering, the portraits have been traveling among the congregations that participated in the vigil as a visible reminder of our shared commitment to prayer, compassion, and justice.

This weekend, St. Luke has the privilege of hosting them. We hope they help our congregation glimpse something of what was experienced at the vigil: a community refusing to let names become statistics, choosing instead to remember lives, to pray for grieving families, and to recommit ourselves to seeing the image of God in every person.

As followers of Christ, we stand alongside those who are afraid, pray for those whose lives have been lost, and lament the violence that far too many people endure—here and around the world. May these portraits invite us not only to remember, but also to deepen our compassion, strengthen our prayers, and renew our commitment to welcoming the stranger, seeking justice, and loving our neighbors.

Feeding our Hungry Neighbors



RED WAGON for the Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard:

August: mayonnaise and soup, recommended soups include chicken noodle, tomato, cream of mushroom and vegetable.

BLUE WAGON for the BLUE

CABINET: Please consider donating canned soups, tuna, and plastic jars of pasta sauce, peanut butter and jam. Cereal, oatmeal, macaroni and cheese, pasta, protein bars and toilet paper are always welcome. Thank you for supporting this ministry!

Support Campus Ministry with Swag!

Comfort Colors Unisex Tee \$32.95 ● ● ● ● ●	Comfort Colors Pullover Hoodie \$59.95 ● ● ● ● ●	Allmade Eco Triblend Colorblock Raglan Long Sleeve Tee \$34.95 ● ●

The St. Luke Campus Ministry Store is open! Order a shirt, water bottle, or hat with the Campus Ministry logo. Every purchase helps build a place where students know they belong. Your purchase helps sustain meals, conversations, spiritual activities, and countless moments of connection that shape lives. Just as importantly, wearing our gear

helps share our story and grows a community of people who believe every student deserves to be seen, known, and loved.

Buy Swag Here!



The Church is texting you...

Will you opt-in?



Would you like to receive text messages from St. Luke about urgent or important details, such as worship being cancelled due to weather or changes to event times or locations? We would love to start utilizing this useful tool, but we need your permission first. Please [click this link](#) or the button below to fill out a form that grants St. Luke permission to text you.

Texting Opt-In Form

July 2026 Treasurers' Report

- July income was \$40,329, or 130.1% of the budget plan of \$30,987.
- YTD income is \$202,116, or 93% of the budget plan.
- July expenses were \$28,597, or 92.3% of the budget plan of \$30,987.
- YTD expenses are \$205,260, or 94.6% of the budget plan.
- By the numbers we finished June with a YTD deficit of \$3,143.
- Our July month end balance in Tompkins Bank checking was \$117,597, up from \$112,454 at the end of June.
- At the end of July our Morgan Stanley investment values:
Endowment (designated) @ \$2,906,548, down from \$2,964,217, at the end of June.
Reserve (unallocated) @ \$502,723, up from \$497,864 at the end of June.

Kimberly will be out of the office from August 8-17.
Pastor Jason will be out of the office for continuing education from August 10-14. No Bible Study on Tuesday.

We Pray Together for...

... Pr. Ernie, Diane, Louise, Carol, Deborah and Andy.

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

Readings for August 9

Elijah finds the presence of God not in earthquake, wind, or fire, but in the sound of sheer

silence. When the disciples face a great storm on the sea, they cry out with fear. Jesus says: "Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid." Amid the storms of life, we gather to seek the calm presence of Christ that soothes our fears. In comforting words of scripture and in the refreshing bread and cup of the eucharist, God grants us peace and sends us forth to be a sign of God's presence to others.

- **1 Kings 19:9-18**

The Lord speaks to Elijah on Mount Horeb

- **Psalms 85:8-13**

I will listen to what the Lord God is saying. (Ps. 85:8)

- **Romans 10:5-15**

Hearing and confessing the word of faith

- **Matthew 14:22-33**

Jesus walking on the sea

Calendar

Thursday, August 6

9:00 am Peace by Piece Quilters

1:00 pm CCC Events Committee

Friday, August 7

10:30 am. Tea and Tarot at Cornell

Sunday, August 9

10:00 am Holy Communion

Tuesday, August 11

No Bible Study while Pastor is away for continuing education.

Wednesday, August 12

1:00 pm. Collegetown Community Collective

Thursday, August 13

1:00 pm CCC Events Committee

*St. Luke Office is generally 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, but...
Remember, God loves you!***



**Sunday 10:00 am
Service of Holy Communion**

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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