

# 2023 ANUAL REPORT





### RECTOR'S REPORT

### What a YEAR it has been!

- Completed a \$2,000,000 Bell Tower restoration
- Welcomed nearly 100 New Neighbors
- Hired six new staff members
- Received over \$715,000 in grant support for preservation and community programs
- Doubled the Grow Jamestown fleet-to a truck <u>and</u> a van!



Whenever you go into the doctor's office—whether for an acute problem or just for your annual check-up — they always take your vital signs. You are asked to stand on the scale, where your height is confirmed and your weight is established before you are ushered into a little room to check your blood pressure and 'pulse ox.' The Annual Report is created not to address an acute problem, but to present an opportunity to confirm the vitality of our parish. Despite facing a number of challenges this year related to numerous staff changes and the restoration of our Bell Tower, I am happy to confirm that our vital signs are strong at St. Luke's.

This year we saw our Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) increase from **131** in 2022 to **152.25**. This growth was spurred by three factors: (1) we had more people attending more regularly in 2023, especially our new neighbors; (2) we had additional services such as Spanish language-only services; and (3) the regular return of the 5pm Saturday service. Each year we greet new families who join St. Luke's and invite them to a Newcomer's Brunch at the Rectory, at which we had nearly 35 in attendance in 2023.

One of the real signs of vitality in 2023 was both a pre-planned phenomenon and a simultaneously spontaneous one: the advent of our New Neighbors. The New Neighbors Coalition was officially founded under the leadership of St. Luke's in 2022 at the behest of former Mayor Eddie Sundquist. In January 2023 while we were planning to welcome our first refugee family, we discovered a whole group of Colombian asylum seekers in need of our assistance. Throughout the year we worked with both groups to learn and grow alongside them. We have had to adapt how we offer Church because of it—offering three community baby showers for Congolese and Colombians alike.

In October, we held our first Refugee Sunday and we learned to listen to the preacher in Swahili. We also attuned our ears to the more familiar cadence of Español – perorming 5 bilingual marriages in 2023, offering our first bilingual service on a Sunday morning with first communion, and now translating the bulletin and sermon into Spanish every Sunday. On Christmas Eve, with the assistance of Sister Myriam Joy (aka Dr. JaniceMarie MacDonald, who holds a Ph.D in linguistics and taught Spanish Literature at the the college level) amongst others, we held our first service in Spanish only. The Rector did his best to pronounce the words of institution correctly, but despite assurances from the congregation, he is not certain that he succeeded. Plans are underway to attempt another such service on Ash Wednesday in 2024. At SLY (St. Luke's Youth) on Sunday nights, we often rely on Google Translate or Sister Myriam Joy to translate when we have Spanish speaking youth in attendance.

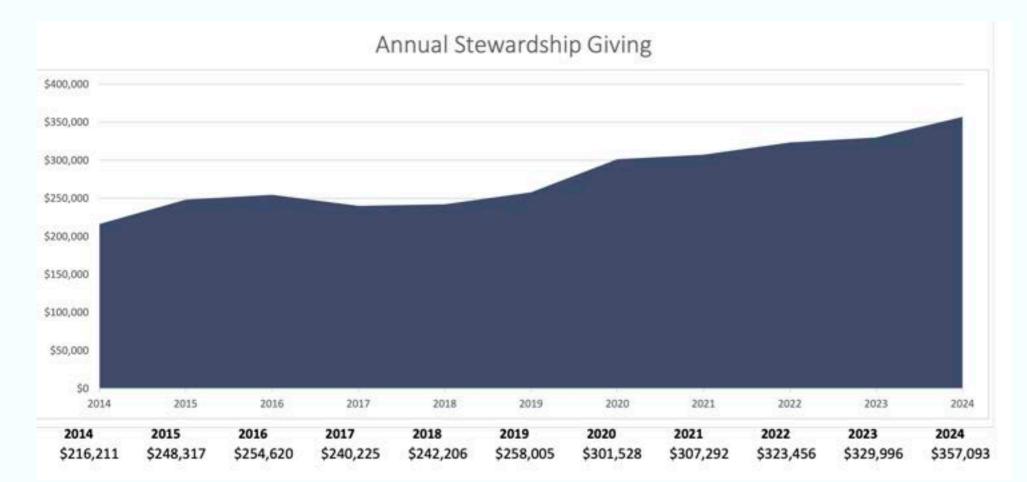
Speaking of Sister Myriam Joy, we are delighted to welcome her into our midst. "JaniceMarie" (until her clothing) has served St. Luke's joyfully on Vestry and in myriad other ways for many years, and over the

last few years she felt a call to something else. She has discerned a call to the religious life in the Anamchara Fellowship. In November, we witnessed her profession and clothing on Sunday morning. She now serves among us as a visible reminder to pray. She is willing to pray for you and to assist any and all in deepening prayer practice. I much approve of her chosen name, for she brings "myriad joy!"

And, since we're on the subject of name changes and chosen names, we are so grateful for the ongoing learning we gain from the Queer community. On Pride Sunday, Miles Hilton came to Adult Forum to offer a special workshop on understanding non-binary and transgendered identities. We have more work to do in our community as we strive to respect the dignity of every human being, but it starts when we see others as they'd like to be seen. Of course, this work is being led by our Dismantling Racism Committee, which seeks to ground our appreciation of diversity through worship and eduction. We have had numerous educational opportunities, including movie screenings at the Reg Lenna, book discussions, talks, and more. I am so grateful for the work of this Committee.

One of the biggest indicators of St. Luke's vitality is manifest in our stewardship. With the need to finance the bell tower project, the community has stepped up in a big way—with a record 73 pledgers committing to increase the amount of their pledge. This is part of a larger trend. In the 10 years I have served St. Luke's we have seen our annual stewardship grow nearly 40%, which has been achieved by encouraging pledgers to work toward the tithe standard and by increasing our number of pledgers from about 100 when I arrived to 131 in 2024. Thank you for your support of St. Luke's and our mission to serve the community.

The Rev. Luke Fodor, Rector



### **RECTOR'S REPORT**



**Newcomers Brunch at Rectory** 



Dismantling Racism Talk



Sister Myriam Joy Clothed



**New Neighbor Furniture Moving** 

### ST. LUKE'S LEADERSHIP TEAM

### **VESTRY**

#### Class of 2025

Linda Johnson Paul Johnson Brian Kearney

#### Class of 2026

Kim Mann Tiffany MacCallum John Pickett

### Class of 2027

Steven Cobb Norma DeJoy Kris Morrison

### **Officers**

Luke Fodor, Rector

Duane Richetti, Warden for Program

Patrick Monaghan, Warden for

Administration

Janet Card, Treasurer
Alan Atcheson, Assistant Treasurer
Linda Dawson, Warden Emeritus
Darcy Kell, Clerk of the Vestry

### **STAFF**

### **Clergy**

Luke Fodor, Rector Jessica Frederick, Curate Cathy Smith, Deacon

### **Lay Ministers**

Janet Card, Treasurer Loren Masánqué, Minister of Music Nicole Gustafson, Parish Administrator Frank Fodor, Sexton Paul Johnson, Verger

### **Programmatic Staff**

Momina Di Blasio, New Neighbors Coalition Manager Nick Weith, Grow Jamestown Food Access Manager



### PARISH STATISTICS - 2023

### Average Sunday Attendance: 152.25

Number of Services

Holy Eucharist Sundays 167
Weekdays 53
Private 46
Daily Office Weekdays 136
Sundays 1

#### Marriages

Bethany Nelson & John Sellstrom
Nayive Fuentes & Jamie Barrero Ardilla
Luisa Fernanda Quntcxo Orzoco & Mavlicio Cordona Vallejo
Leidy Yuliara Quinterlo Orozlo & Ferney Aguirre Ceballos
Johana Alexandia Vasquez Ardila & Luis Carlos Perez
Amber Grekalski & Raymond Michael Fortney
Francy Yurany Murillo Perez & Wilmer Avendano Hernandez
Louise Marlene Prince & Charles Marvin Massey
Kristin Marie Grohol & William Joseph Brazll

### **Baptisms**

Eli Walrod Grace Elizabeth Sulkowski
 Ethan Walter Tanya Lynn Evans
 Myrick Matthews Adonis Dameik Lockett
 Beatrice Margaret Spahr Antwon Demetris Lockett Jr.

### **Confirmations 6** Tyler Andrew Hill

Cyrus Jones Isabella Marie Lisciandro Augustina Krenzer Andrea Benedett Spitale Carl Spitale

#### Deaths/Burials

Timothy B. SaGurney
Jacque H. LeBaron
Jean Marie Logie Bobo
Mamie Jean Garda
Gregory Scott Billquist
Elisabeth G. Ostrom
Shirley S. Sumner
Barbara M. Lissfelt
David M. Dower
Jean Cooper
Janice Patterson Boles
Ron McEntire
Suzanne White Foley
Mary Taylor
Idamay Bolles Shaw

18

George Allincic Jeanne Green John T. Walton



### **WARDEN'S REPORT**

Each year that I have written this report, I tend to look back at the previous year's events and attempt to sum them up with a few themes. As I begin my final year as Warden, this report is no exception. I would say that 2023 at St. Luke's was one of continued preservation and transformation. With respect to preservation, much was accomplished in 2023 to ensure that our beautiful building will remain as such for many more years. The bell tower stabilization project was completed just before Christmas. This was indeed a complex and expensive, albeit very necessary, project. Despite the cost, we are very blessed to have had many generous donors both in the parish and the community to help offset these costs. There is still much more that needs to be done to ensure that our wonderful building will last for many more generations. While the costs are high and there are concerns about how to find the funding, I believe that with perseverance, God will provide.

This past year was also one of transformation. We said goodbye and farewell to staff members, a partnership, and old ways of doing things, while at the same time welcoming in new people and new beginnings. Early in the year we said farewell to our long-time treasurer, Catherine Way, as she moved on to enjoy a much deserved retirement. We will always be grateful to Catherine for her dedication managing the purse strings of St. Luke's. In her place, we give many thanks to Janet Card for stepping up and serving in this important position of treasurer. We are also grateful for the financial expertise of Alan Atcheson, who has provided invaluable guidance to us as we work to better manage our finances. Speaking of much deserved retirements, we also celebrated the retirement of our parish administrator, Kim Mann, this past year. While it may be hard to imagine parish life without Kim at the helm, we are thankful that she is still very much present in the parish, serving in other capacities. Moreover, our new parish administrator, Nicole Gustafson, has fearlessly stepped into Kim's former role and is doing a wonderful job!

While we celebrated some staff retirements in 2023, we also mournfully said goodbye to our former director of music, Ron McEntire. We will always be eternally grateful for his time and contributions to our parish and the music ministry. He leaves behind a wonderful legacy. Nevertheless, we are pleased to have found and brought aboard our new director of music, Loren Masánqué. In a relatively short amount of time, Loren has already done so much to keep our wonderful music ministry thriving. We are very excited for the future. We also are happy to have added Momina de Blasio to our staff. She is in charge of the very important work involving the New Neighbors Coalition, which provides assistance and resources for refugees and asylum seekers, who we welcomed this past year.





Transformation at St. Luke's in 2023 was not just limited to staff changes, however. It also occurred with a partnership, as well as with an important program. This past spring, after prayerful consideration we began the difficult process of dissolving our partnership with Grace Church, Randolph. Breaking up is never easy to do, and often it results in hurt feelings. In the end, however, both sides ultimately agreed that it was best to part ways and go our own directions. Despite the hardships along the way with this partnership, I believe that the entire experience was enlightening, and we learned much about ourselves, as well. We also have learned a lot about ourselves as we worked to transform an important community program. This past fall, the transformation of the former Jamestown Public & Mobile Market has morphed into Grow Jamestown. With that transformation, we are pleased to announce Nick Weith as the new Food Access Manager. Nick, along with a better organized and very capable advisory committee, will steer Grow Jamestown in a new and exciting direction for our community. We are very much looking forward to seeing what is in store for this program in 2024.

Going into 2024, we have so much to celebrate and look forward to here at St. Luke's, as we continue to transform and grow. For instance, in a couple weeks we will celebrate the ordination of Jessica Frederick. We are so grateful to have her and extremely proud of all that she has accomplished – all while becoming a new mom this past year! Finally, on vestry we will welcome new members and also bid a fond farewell to one of our long serving members, Lisa Yaggie, who happens to be my counterpart as Warden. I can tell you that serving beside her has been one of the easiest experiences for me. Whether she realizes it or not, she and I pretty much have the same outlook and mindset when it comes to handling church business. Thankfully, Lisa is more demonstrative than me. She so often was able to articulate what I was already thinking about an issue or topic, which then only necessitated me saying "yep, what she just said". I recall vividly how apprehensive I was when I first became warden— worrying about whether she would be okay with me as her counterpart. Fast forward to today, and I can say as I hope she can, that it was an enjoyable experience. I and the rest of the leadership team will certainly miss her. However, it will not be goodbye, as she will continue as part of our church family and move on to new endeavors within the parish—including tackling Education for Ministry this fall. We wish her all the best!

It is indeed exciting that St. Luke's is continuing to grow and become an integral part of the community. With that growth comes new possibilities as well as new challenges for our parish. We, as the vestry, recognize this reality and are doing all that we can to prepare for it. I want to take a moment to thank all of the clergy for their tireless dedication; all of the staff and volunteers that help keep everything within this parish moving each and every day – it truly could not be done without you; thank you to my fellow vestry members; all those who lead and serve on the ministries here at St. Luke's; and all of you for your supportive belief in the mission of St. Luke's.

Partrick Monaghan, Warden for Administration







### TREASURER'S REPORT

### "A NEW YEAR AND A NEW TREASURER FOR ST. LUKE'S!"

Catherine Way, our faithful Treasurer for many years, decided to retire and move to Orchard Park at the end of February 2023. Being somewhat familiar with the financial software St. Luke's uses, I said I would give the Treasurer's role a try. It has been one wild ride of a learning curve!

We financed the \$2,000,000 Bell Tower Restoration, the Public Market, and the brand-new New Neighbors Coalition and administered an \$86,000 NYS Department of State Community Block grant to offer direct assistance to our Colombian New Neighbors—as well as keeping up with our regular Parish budget.

We have a large deficit this year because of the Bell Tower expenses and the purchase of a Public Market truck this year for which we received a donation last year. We do not expect this to be a trend.

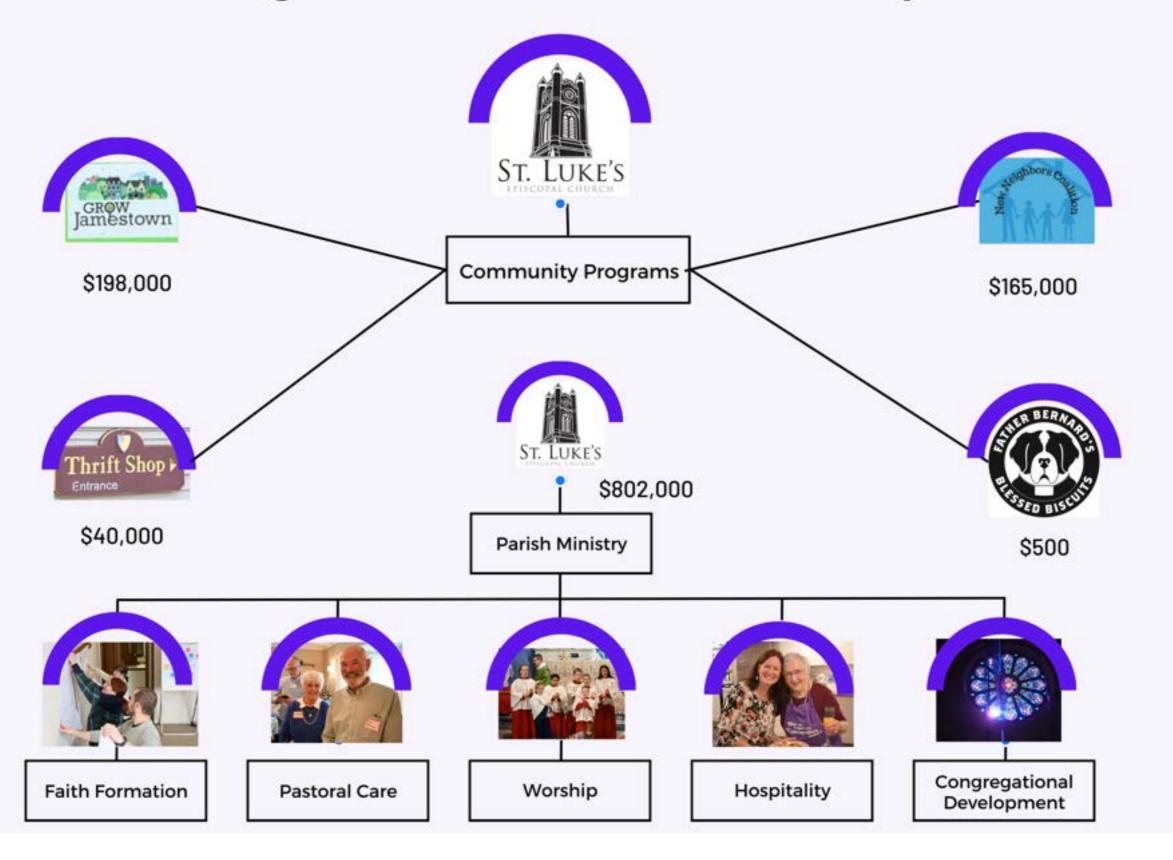
We are managing federal, state, and local grants, a loan from the Episcopal Church Building Fund, fundraising projects, and generous donations from parishioners and community members.

We introduced *Tithely* which allows us to place that little QR code in bulletins empowering visitors to make a donation directly from their phones.

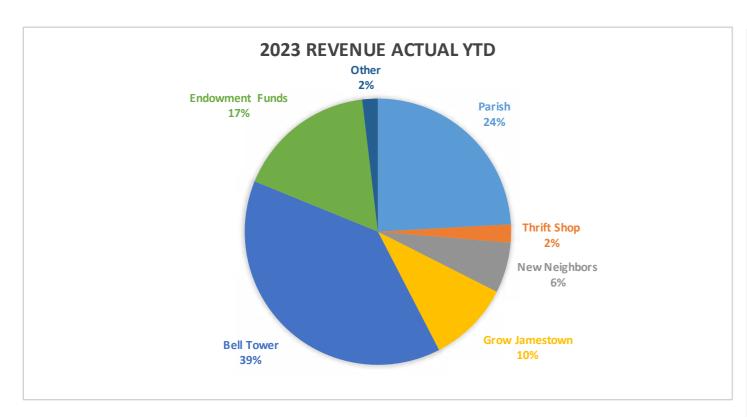
All this activity brings the Parish Family and the wider Community together, sharing Christ's message and feeding his flock.

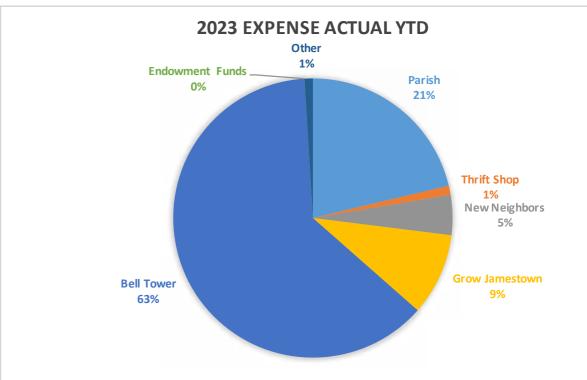
**Janet Card, Treasurer** 

### Organizational Relationships



		2022		2023		2024			2022		2023		2024
	Revenue Actual		nue Actual Revenue A		l Revenue Budget			]	Expense	]	Expense	F	Expense
		YTD		YTD		-		Ac	tual YTD	A	ctual YTD	Bu	ıdget
Parish	\$	578,927	\$	480,625	\$	581,148	Parish	\$	811,050	\$	577,082	\$	676,684
Thrift Shop	\$	52,500	\$	44,374	\$	30,000	Thrift Shop	\$	18,364	\$	28,572	\$	34,095
New Neighbors	\$	3,822	\$	121,908	\$	165,000	New Neighbors	\$	-	\$	125,908	\$	165,000
Grow Jamestown	\$	274,030	\$	198,303	\$	198,460	Grow Jamestown	\$	189,804	\$	258,071	\$	196,599
Bell Tower	\$	-	\$	772,548	\$	-	Bell Tower	\$	-	\$	1,695,491	\$	102,000
Endowment Funds	\$	26,912	\$	337,481	\$	221,744	Endowment Funds	\$	38,413	\$	-	\$	-
Other	\$	28,273	\$	37,753	\$	37,400	Other	\$	-	\$	26,426	\$	20,000
Total Revenue	\$	964,464	\$	1,992,992	\$	1,233,752	Total Expense	\$	1,057,631	\$	2,711,550	\$ 1	1,194,378





#### **Endowment Funds**

	2021	2022	2023
Ashwell Fund A	\$ 2,574,356	\$ 2,165,846	\$ 2,310,769
Ashwell Fund B	\$ 693,364	\$ 549,334	\$ 600,059
General Endowment	\$ 1,100,345	\$ 871,712	\$ 949,375
NBT Ashwell Fund	\$ 220,980	\$ 178,035	\$ 183,390
<b>Total Endowment Funds</b>	\$ 4,589,045	\$ 3,764,927	\$ 4,043,594

### **2024 BUDGET YEAR**

PAR	ISH BUDGET	
PARIS	SH INCOME	
	TOTAL PLEDGE INCOME	\$365,000
	TOTAL OTHER GIVING	\$28,500
	TOTAL GIFTS	\$28,500
	TOTAL INVESTMENT INCOME	\$221,744
	TOTAL INCOME FROM GRANTS	\$119,174
	TOTAL OTHER REVENUE	\$43,474
	TOTAL PARISH INCOME	\$802,892
PARIS	SH EXPENSES	
	TOTAL SALARIES	\$289,678
	TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$128,313
	TOTAL CLERGY MISC.	\$7,850
	TOTAL BUILDINGS	\$220,300
	TOTAL OFFICE EXPENSE	\$24,500
	TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES	\$42,250
	TOTAL LOCAL OUTREACH	\$9,600
	TOTAL WIDER CHURCH OUTREACH	\$69,323
	TOTAL PARISH EXPENSES	\$798,684

GROW JAMESTOWN BUDGET	
GROW JAMESTOWN INCOME	
TOTAL GRANTS	\$131,400
TOTAL CONTRACTED	\$17,500
TOTAL EVENT FUNDRAISING	\$14,000
TOTAL DONOR FUNDRAISING	\$4,000
TOTAL SALES	\$21,000
TOTAL FEES	\$2,960
TOTAL SPONSORSHIPS	\$4,600
TOTAL PROFITS	\$3,000
TOTAL GROW JAMESTOWN INCOME	\$198,460
GROW JAMESTOWN EXPENSES	
TOTAL SALARIES	\$85,500
TOTAL EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$34,689
CONRACTED SERVICES	\$4,000
TOTAL PRODUCE	\$37,000
TOTAL GARDEN PROGRAMS	\$5,860
TOTAL VEHICLE	\$9,100
TOTAL MOBILE MARKET	\$1,000
TOTAL LOCAL OUTREACH	\$10,200
TOTAL STAFF DEVELOPMENT	\$1,000
TOTAL MISC.	\$8,250
TOTAL GROW JAMESTOWN EXPENSES	\$196,599

### **2024 BUDGET YEAR**

NEW NEIGHBORS BUDGET	
NEW NEIGHBORS INCOME	
NYS Office for New Americans Grant	\$150,000
Local Fundraising	\$15,000
TOTAL NEW NEIGHBORS INCOME	\$165,000
NEW NEIGHBORS EXPENSES	
Personnel Services	\$108,972
Non-Personnel Services	\$27,628
Administrative Cost	\$13,400
TOTAL GRANT REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES	\$150,000
T ID III	04 7 000
Local Direct Assistance	\$15,000
TOTAL NEW NEIGHBORS EXPENSES	\$165,000

<u>FATH</u>	IER BERNARD'S BUDGET	
FBBB I	NCOME	
	SOCIAL ENTERPRISE INCOME	\$500
FBBB I	EXPENSE	
	SOCIAL ENTERPRISE EXPENSES	\$500

THR	IFT SHOP BUDGET	
тири	T SHOP INCOME	
IIIKII	T SHOT INCOME	
	TOTAL THRIFT SHOP INCOME	\$30,000
THRIE	T SHOP EXPENSES	
	THE LET CHOP EXPENDED	<b>#</b> 4.00 <b>7</b>
	THRIFT SHOP EXPENSES	\$4,095
	CHARITABLE ALLOCATIONS	\$30,000
	TOTAL THRIFT SHOP EXPENSES	\$34,095
	Reserved for New Roof	\$40,000
ST.	LUKE'S TOTAL OPERAT	<b>TIONS</b>
		_
	TOTAL INCOME	\$1,196,852
	TOTAL EXPENSE	\$1,194,878
	DIFFERENCE	\$1,974

### **STEWARDSHIP REPORT**

As has been customary, the Stewardship Committee in 2023 met periodically to discern and to discuss how best to inspire each St. Luke's parishioner to share their time, talents, and treasure in support of St. Luke's collective ministry to shine ever brighter as a beacon of God's love in Jamestown and beyond, and to be that special church where blessings and the love of Christ abound in so many wonderful ways.

Welcoming St. Luke's new Treasurer, Janet Card, and associate, Al Atcheson, who replaced retired Treasurer, Catherine Way, the Committee convened in the first half of 2023 to "debrief" and to evaluate the 2022 Annual Giving Campaign and to begin planning for the Fall 2023 Campaign. Thanks to the faithfulness and generosity of St. Luke's parishioners, the 2022 Annual Giving Campaign succeeded in reaching its pledged-amount goal and, by the Grace of God, netted 14 new pledging units for 2023.

At subsequent meetings in the late summer and in September, the Committee planned the 2023 Annual Giving Campaign strategy, theme, timeline, and task checklist. In a departure from Stewardship "check-in" calls to parishioners in past years, the Committee decided instead to host a special gathering for all St. Luke's parishioners and friends held on Tuesday, October 17 in the Undercroft.

The October 17 special event featured an informative presentation and update about the Bell Tower Project, the funding of which has been one of St. Luke's highest financial priorities. The highlight of the event was a video that documented and illustrated in detail the extensive, ongoing work on the bell tower. The Committee, as well as the entire parish, owes a special thank-you to Aidan Fodor for the masterful job he did in editing, putting together, and producing this excellent video that proved to be so compelling.

With the conclusion of the 2023 Annual Giving Campaign, the Campaign has succeeded in reaching its pledged-amount goal of \$365,000 from 131 pledging units (with a record-setting 73 increasing, 4 decreasing, 38 remaining the same, 4 returning, 12 ceasing to pledge; and 11 brand new pledgers). THANK YOU to everyone for your generosity, and for all that you do at St. Luke's in God's service!

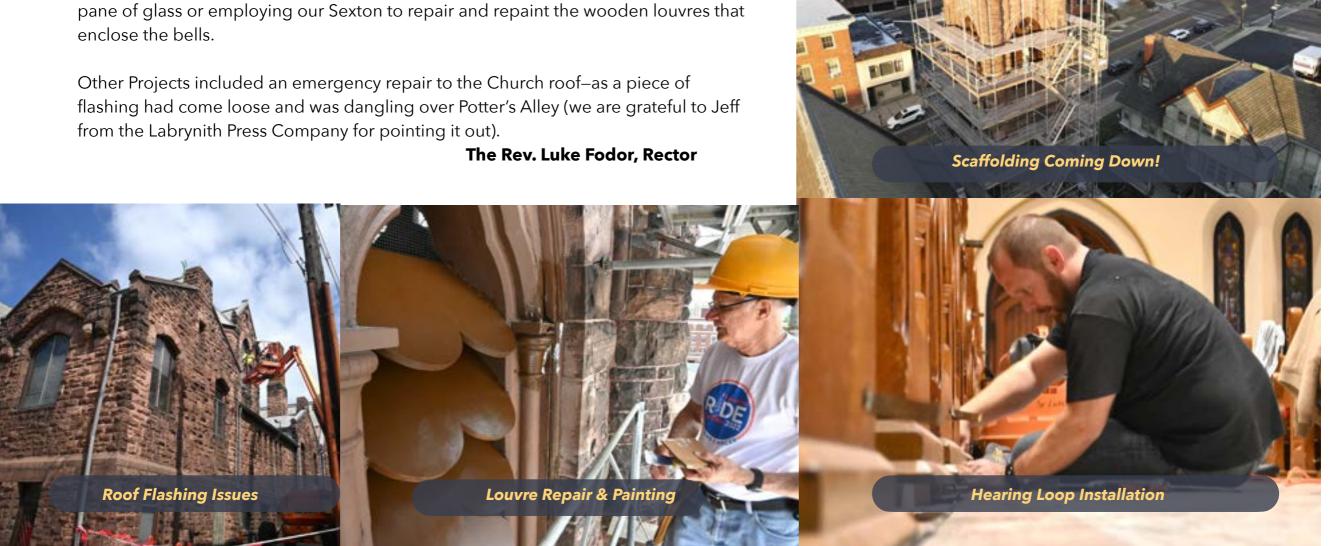
Christ be with you all! Paul Johnson, Stewardship Committee Chair



### PROPERTY REPORT

We have been planning the Bell Tower Restoration project for years since we received the \$500,000 NYS Preservation grant in 2018, and in 2023 we finally completed it (just in the nick of time and within the 5-year time limit.) Of course, the COVID Pandemic both delayed the project's completion and doubled its costs. What was forecast to be a \$1.6 million job turned into a \$3 million project, which proved beyond our immediate reach. We cut costs and decided not to repoint the bottom 40 feet of masonry on the tower or the complete interior. We now face 15 years of \$102,000 in annual payments to repay the loan and cover the financing charges.

With the size and intensity of our Bell Tower project, it might be easy to assume that was the only project we addressed in 2023. And while it did occupy most of our resources, we achieved many other smaller side projects as well. Some of these took full advantage of the tower scaffolding–like engaging D&S Glass to install a missing pane of glass or employing our Sexton to repair and repaint the wooden louvres that enclose the bells.



Pouring the Cement Root







### **VERGER'S REPORT**

As I reflect upon the past year of 2023 and look forward to the unfolding promise of a new year, it is with gratitude and thanksgiving for the many ways God has enabled all of us at St. Luke's to discern needs within our parish and in our community, and inspired us to devise new and innovative ways to meet those needs and to remain a presence and support not only to each other, but more importantly, to those beyond our walls.

Throughout 2023 I fulfilled my most public duty of escorting worship processions, primarily at the Sunday 10:00 AM service, as well as at special services, including parishioner and community-member funerals. With the resumption of the weekly, Saturday 5:00 PM contemplative "Transcend" service, I assumed new behind-the-scenes responsibility for setting up for the services and afterwards re-setting the chapel for the Sunday 8:00 AM services.

Of special joy to me has been my role to provide, along with Curate Jessica Frederick, Sacristan Janet Card, and Head Acolytes McKenzie Pickett and Madeline DeJoy (Emeritus), ongoing guidance and training to new and veteran acolytes. St. Luke's continues to be blessed with a growing cadre of acolytes who play such an important role in our worship. I am thankful for each and every one of our acolytes and for their enthusiasm, dedication, and faithful ministry. I look forward to sharing in their ministry in 2024.

St. Luke's was blessed to welcome Bishop Sean Rowe, along with diocesan staff and clergy, on April 4 for the second annual Diocesan Partnership Chrism Liturgy and Renewal of Clergy Vows to be hosted at St. Luke's. It was a privilege to serve as Verger at the Chrism Mass and to advise and assist Bishop Sean and diocesan staff as needed, and to welcome diocesan clergy to St. Luke's. What an inspiration it was to join in song with a congregation full of clergy singing enthusiastically and in harmony!

My behind-the-scenes service as Verger in an advisory role and as a member of the St. Luke's Parish Leadership Team continued throughout 2023. It is with humility and joy that I serve in this capacity with such a talented and dedicated team of St. Luke's fellow parishioners. My ministry continues to include weekly meetings, as schedules permit, with Luke to provide help and support as I am able and, as he states, "to point the Rector in the right direction." I daily thank God for Luke, his inspired ministry, and all his dedicated work, not only to share the Gospel, but to live it.

As 2024 begins to unfold, I thank God for another year and pray that, with God's help, St. Luke's shines ever brighter as a beacon of God's love in Jamestown and beyond, and that we continue to be that special church where blessings and the love of Christ abound in so many wonderful ways! I look forward to evolving my Verger role and ministry as the Holy Spirit leads in the year ahead.

Paul Johnson, Verger

### THE DEACON'S REPORT

I continue to attend Diocesan Partnership events and serve on the Commission On Ministry (COM). I have served on a few committees over the years in our diocese and now in our partnership. None has been more rewarding than the COM. We meet through zoom monthly to discuss the journeys of those in discernment of their ministry, both Lay and Clergy, as well as to discuss and learn of new ways we can empower and educate people to live out their ministerial lives. At times our work seems daunting when we must tell someone that the committee, as well as others see a strong ministry in the Lay order. It should be a moment of celebration, but unfortunately, it is received by individuals not as a validation of the ministry they are already engaged in, but often viewed as a rejection, of not being worthy, which is not the case at all. We are working on changing the culture to remind us of all the value and necessity of Lay Ministry. But overall, the experience is amazing as we watch people grow and learn how to articulate their call to any kind of ministry.

I work closely with Beth Litton and Momina Di Blasio organizing volunteers for our New Neighbors. You will hear more about this ministry in another report.

Last Spring 10 women met at Camp Onyahsa for a Women's Retreat led by Rev. Cathy Dempesy-Sims. The theme was "The Hem of the Garment". The retreat included time for connecting with others, time for reflection on Luke 8:40-48, a "Holy Hike", kayaking, and great food prepared by Steven Cobb.

#### **WINGED OX**

I am happy to report that the Winged Ox Players are back! We hosted a Murder Mystery in October that included many of St. Luke's family members, as well as community friends of St. Luke's. This spring we are hoping to produce a one woman show. Stay tuned for details on this exciting adventure and others in the months to come.

#### **CARING COMMUNITY**

Thank you, Darcy Kell, for making it possible to continue sending cards to our families and friends in transitional and troubling times for the past three years. We continue to send cards as we see an opportunity to reach out with words of comfort and support. We have various volunteers who are willing to take this over for a month or two at a time. If you have ever been a recipient of one of these cards, I know you realize what an uplifting ministry this is. Thank you, Kim Mann, for continuing to give rides to a few folks who cannot get to church on their own.

The Rev. Cathy Smith, Deacon



### **CURATE'S REPORT**

### "PHEW! I'M GLAD THAT'S OVER!"

This year has been the final stretch of the marathon that is the ordination process. After seven years of discernment, training, and diocesan procedures, I have been able to celebrate milestones of completion in 2023: I received my diploma in Master of Divinity from the Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSP). This fall, I finished Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at the Cleveland Clinic – the final training requirement for ordination to the priesthood. God willing and the people consenting, I will be ordained in 2024. It's been a long road – I'm so glad the end is in sight!

Of course, life is not linear: Endings really are opportunities for new beginnings. With the completion of my seminary studies, Trinity Church Wall Street offers curacy grants to CDSP graduates as part of Trinity's commitment to nurturing and supporting emerging leaders within the Church. That means this fall we announced Trinity's grant of \$210,000 - to be allocated over the course of two years - to cover my salary and benefits here at St. Luke's.

As I finished my formal education, I knew it was also important to continue in my professional development, as I work to learn and grow as a leader. Out of over 900 applicants, I was accepted as one of 23 participants into the Trinity Leadership Fellows Program – a ministry of Trinity Church Wall Street for individuals seeking to deepen the faith-inspired and values-driven mindsets and skills needed to effectively lead organizations and serve communities in contemporary society, while also building lifelong supporting peer and mentoring relationships.

This year also saw me complete my time as Deacon-in-charge at Grace, Randolph. Stepping away from this parish was a bittersweet process, but I am glad to be back at St. Luke's full-time. I am confident that raising my child, Penelope, at St. Luke's will be a growing proposition for all of us.

In effect, I realize in faith and leadership, learning is never done. Even as I finish one chapter of my life in ministry, I recognize the next one is about to begin. THANK YOU for all your support, as I learn and grow here at St. Luke's. I can't wait to see what the next year has in store for us as a community!

The Rev. Jessica Frederick, Curate for Children, Youth, and Families







### CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES REPORT

### "WHERE ARE THE CHILDREN AT ST. LUKE'S ON SUNDAY MORNING?"

When comparing youth and families' Sunday morning attendance to the years prior to the COVID pandemic, it is understandable to conclude that St. Luke's programming is moribund. This is part of a national trend: The pandemic disrupted family patterns of church attendance everywhere. However, here at St. Luke's, we are not passive observers to these shifts. Observing these vital trends, the Vestry decision to dissolve the relationship with Grace Church in Randolph has given me time to revitalize St. Luke's Children, Youth, and Family Ministry.

As such, I've been taking the pulse of our programs, seeking feedback from our youth and parents. This has allowed us to recalibrate our ministries: instead of continuing to do things in the ways they've always been done, we've spent the year reimagining our programming. At the request of our youth, this fall we relaunched our youth group as SLY (St. Luke's Youth) – dissolving our partnership with First Presbyterian Church and bringing our youth group back to St. Luke's every Sunday evening for the first time since 2019. This infused the program with fresh energy and allowed us to celebrate two Youth Sundays in 2023 when the need presented itself – one in the spring and one in the fall.

Similarly, parents' feedback prompted us to launch Rhythms of Grace this fall. This new ministry occurs once a month and is a church experience for families with young or exuberant children who may not feel comfortable in a traditional worship setting. At Rhythms of Grace, we tell a Bible story, interact in therapeutic arts and crafts projects, and share communion in a child-friendly environment. This program especially supports children on the Autism Spectrum, but this interactive service is also intended for families of all kinds: with small, active children or children with special needs. A simple, family-friendly brunch follows the service. It is a growing program, reimagining faith formation and community building for busy families. Finally, St. Luke's ministry with our new neighbors - immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers – is also transforming our work with children, youth, and families. This year's nativity tableau at our Christmas Eve pageant service gave us a glimpse of all that we've accomplished last year: we had participants in the pageant from three different continents, spanning the ages of 6 months to 18 years. The Christian story is full of the promise of resurrection and new birth – and that very story is playing itself out here at St. Luke's. Yes, our ministry with children, youth, and families has changed since the pandemic. And God is doing what God does: Making all things new.

### The Rev. Jessica Frederick, Curate for Children, Youth, and Families



### **BUILDING USAGE**

I'd be lying if I said that I didn't sometimes regret the size and beauty of our building and the associated cost of upkeep. Sometimes it feels like a disproportionally great expense for the value it offers.

And when I begin to feel that way, I flip through the pages of our facility booking log. I can't even begin to tell you how many non-church and community events we host annually (well, I suppose I could). But we do keep track of the amount of the value that the building offers back to our bottom line and to the community.

In 2023, we received just over **\$6,000** in donations for building use from private events and those who can afford to offer some financial support to cover cleaning costs, electricity, replacement costs of furniture, sidewalk salt, etc. But the truth is that most groups can't afford the market value of booking the space. As such, the Church bears the cost burden.

In 2023, we "gave away" over **\$75,000** in donated space to the likes of Chautauqua Striders, Creche, MHA, NA, Girl scouts, Jamestown Community Learning Council, the Noon Rotary, the United Way, and Zonta, amongst many others. Thank you for your support!

The Rev. Luke Fodor, Rector



### **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

St. Luke's Church occupies a prominent spot, as close to the heart of downtown as possible. Corresponding to its geographic centrality, St. Luke's plays a significant role in partnering with community agencies to make a difference in our community. In addition to letting our building be used for public good, we regularly partner with community agencies for the civic good.

2023 saw us expand our partnership with the Chadakoin Chamber Ensemble as they held their concerts at St. Luke's and sometimes enriched our services with their music. Similarly, the Empty Bowls partnership also grew from a \$12,000 fundraiser to a nearly \$17,000 one.

In January our Dismantling Racism Committee led an MLK Jr Day film event at the Reg Lenna Center for the Arts in partnership with the County IDEA Commission. And starting this fall, we have partnered with music therapist, Karen Suber, to offer LGBTQIA therapy drum circle.

The Rev. Luke Fodor, Rector



### MINISTER OF MUSIC REPORT

### "NEW OPPORTUNITIES EMERGE FROM OLD TRADITIONS"

In my first months of tenure here at St. Luke's as your Minister of Music, we have begun a comeback program, bringing back traditions and practices from before COVID, as well as creating some new practices that hopefully will become traditions. Our choir is growing. The Handel's Community Sing is back. Children's choir is back! Collectively we are learning to sing together more confidently.

The Organ which had its restoration spearheaded by the late Canon Ron McEntire, has been officially **paid off.** Not only is it used on Sundays for our worship, but we make it available for students (like our own Maddie DeJoy) and for community by hosting the first AGO Pedals, Pipes and Pizza demonstration in more than a decade, back in October.

Handel's Messiah Sing-Along was a success. It was a joy to welcome old friends of mine: Blessing Agu, Jeffrey Dean, and Richard Gress, as well as local talent: Adam Rohler and Gavin Card, and a great singing choir and congregation. This Christmas we have also begun a liturgical collaboration with Chadakoin Chamber Ensemble.



With money set aside specifically for scholarships in Ron's name, we have launched a Choral Scholars program for High school students who want to continue their education in a specific Sacred Music program. This year we are excited to announce Allison MacCallum and McKenzie Pickett as our Scholars for the 2024 spring term. They will receive \$1,200 worth of Lessons/ Coaching as well as performing opportunities in Church and out of church. They will receive an honorarium upon completion of the term.

These new beginnings are exciting to behold, and I look forward to the year to come! **Loren Masánqué, Minister of Music** 



### **BLUE BAG MINISTRY**

The Blue Bag Ministry continued its mission to care for the community throughout 2023 with donations from wish lists from organizations in the Jamestown area. In 2023 we supported the Mental Health Association, St. Susan's, Striders, and UCAN. We hear back from the organizations we've served about how our support makes them feel cared for and valued.

Blue Bags are available on the second Sunday of the month when the announcement of the recipient is made. Then, parishioners shop for items on the wish list and return the filled Blue Bag on the third Sunday of the month when the bags are presented as part of the offertory. It's always a thrill to see what our combined efforts can accomplish.

Your support of this program makes it possible to bring physical tokens of God's love to individuals and families in need via numerous non-profit organizations. Thank you for your continued support in helping all of God's children. **Norma DeJoy, Chair** 



### THRIFT SHOP

St. Luke's Thrift Shop has been open since 1982, helping and serving our community. The volunteer staff of 30 dedicated ladies and gentlemen take our weekly donations, sort, and reasonably price these items for our loyal customers each week. Beyond our customers, we take care of those in need through our voucher system that allows those who can't afford basic items to choose those items at no cost to them. Additionally, New Neighbors who have settled in our area are also able to shop for their needed items for the whole family. In 2023 approximately \$7,000 of merchandise given to those in need. The profits from our weekly sales are given back to the community twice a year (summer and winter).

In 2023 we were proud to distribute a total of \$ 28,000. 2023 recipients included: St. Susan's Kitchen, Mental Health Association, The Anew Center, Boys and Girls Club, New Neighbors Coalition, Salvation Army for the Red Kettle Ministry, all the Jamestown Schools for the principal's discretionary fund and Striders for a soccer camp start up, etc. If anyone would like to see the complete list, I would be more than happy to share it with you. Parishioners and community members are always encouraged to contact a board member with information about an agency or group who meets our criteria for future allocations. Board Members are Barbara Kiddoo, president, Sandi Gustafson, secretary; members-at-large: Wilma Twinam, Sue Priester, Fran Morgan, Cathy Smith, and Nancy Ferguson. **Barbara Kiddoo, President** 



### **EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY REPORT**

St. Luke's Education for Ministry group (EfM) is part of an international program founded in 1975 by the School of Theology in Sewanee, Tennessee. St. Luke's group currently has eight participants (with space for four additional next year) collectively exploring faith, growing in personal understanding, and expanding knowledge of various interpretations. Participation helps discern, develop, and carry out ministries transforming participants. Faithful people encounter the breadth and depth of Christian tradition through conversation, sharing of experiences, study, worship, and engaging theological reflection. We welcome participants of any faith background or even no background desiring to learn more.

Education for Ministry is a four-year program that emphasizes a different area of knowledge each year. Participants from each of the four years meet as a group with study coordinated to have commonality despite different weekly assignments. Year 1 focuses on the Hebrew Bible, year 2 on the New Testament, year 3 on church history, and Year 4 on theology, ethics, and interfaith encounters. Participants, however, commit to only one year of study at a time.

St. Luke's EfM group meets weekly on Zoom at 6pm each Thursday from September to May (36 Sessions) and plans three in-person gatherings throughout the course year. Our group is a supportive community of people searching for a new understanding led by a Sewanee Certified Mentor. No one entering the group leaves four years later as the same person.

This was a transformative year for the group seeing a change of mentorship and revamping of the session formatting, including occasional visits from graduates to lead theological reflections or contribute relevant experiences. We invite interested people to visit a session as a guest, and we welcome all. For more information, please contact Certified Mentor, **Karl Costello** (<u>kbc362000@hotmail.com</u>)





### **ALTAR GUILD**

What makes you smile? What makes your heart sing? Reflecting on Jess's recent sermon at the Commissioning of Terri Rettburg as a new member of the St. Agnes Altar Guild on the feast day of St. Agnes leads me to smile. There are so many opportunities for making your heart sing in the service of God.

The Altar Guild is a fun-loving group that makes worship possible—setting up, cleaning up, cleaning up, and lifting up our collective spirits up to the glory of God.

If you feel called, don't run the other way – come to our next meeting on Monday, February 5 at 7:00 on the Johnson Stage. We will be planning for Lenten activities, the busiest time of the year for the Altar Guild. Come join us. We will find something for you to do that makes you smile.

#### **Janet Card, Sacristan**



### **BISHOP OVERS GUILD**

Bishop Overs Guild, affectionately known as BOG, is a social group of St. Luke's women (and men) who meet monthly for a potluck supper to discuss ways we can foster our mission to feed people. Bishop Overs members provide refreshments for funeral receptions (with silver service if requested), and provide refreshments for various events held at St Luke's such as confirmations and other gatherings.

This year, Bishop Overs Guild donated \$1000 to Meals on Wheels and \$500 to St. Susan's. BOG was able to do so through fundraising. It takes our entire church community working together to make the food that generates the money to support our worthy mission. God bless our talented bakers!!

New members are always welcome. We cordially invite you to take a more active role and consider joining Bishop Overs so that we are sure to work with the spirit of fresh new ideas. We meet in the undercroft on the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. We welcome you to our table! **Norma DeJoy, Chair** 



### **NEW NEIGHBORS REPORT**

2023 has brought about many challenges and successes for the New Neighbors Coalition and St. Luke's role in the work of welcoming new arrivals to our community! Thanks to a Community Block Grant from New York State, St. Luke's was able to provide direct service connection and financial support to almost 50 immigrants in the area. This grant allowed us to provide financial assistance towards living costs such as rent, groceries, clothing, and household items. With these funds, we also hired two part-time employees (Ali Johnson and Momina Di Blasio) for three months to aid new arrivals with case management and service connection. The staff worked to help secure safe housing options, access to legal services and healthcare, and transportation.

In addition to the \$86,000 in grant funding secured this year, St. Luke's fundraised an additional \$26,000, thanks to our very generous parishioners and community members. With their support we were able to allocate the entirety of these donations to supporting new arrivals.

At the end of the year, with the assistance of the City of Jamestown grant writer, St. Luke's was awarded a \$150,000 grant (renewable annually for three years) from the New York Department of State's Office of New Americans. This provides a new model of resource navigation for immigrants in New York State to provide a more targeted outreach to underserved immigrant communities, using dedicated volunteers. Under this program, the Immigrant Resource Coordinators will support a network of volunteer Immigrant Helping Hands in 21 regions across the state. Our region of Southern WNY includes Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, and Allegheny Counties.

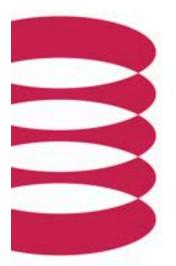
In continuing in this work, St. Luke's has hired a full-time volunteer and community engagement coordinator, Momina Di Blasio, to assist with creating longterm strategies to inspire active community participation in warmly welcoming new arrivals with compassion and empathy. We aim to partner closely with current and future immigrants in the region, asking for their knowledge and experience to guide us to achieve these objectives. If you'd like to volunteer, please reach out to the Rector or contact Momina directly at <a href="momina@stlukesjamestown.org">momina@stlukesjamestown.org</a>.











# ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

### SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Because of you we were able to support to immigrants in the region in the following ways:

86

immigrants served

44

individuals received case management services through New Neighbors.

17

Employment connections made

12

families assisted in securing safe housing

#### FUNDING SUMMARY

\$26,000 Donations \$83,000 Grants

#### MOMENTS

304

bikes gifted

countless hours of his time to repair donated bikes for new neighbors dealing with the area's transportation scarcity. Mark Wilson from Wilson Endurance Sports spoke on road safety, and Upstate Cycle provided bicycle helmets.

MEMORIES

Matt Camby from Pearl City Cycle donated

16

turkeys cooked

This year we hosted the first New Neighbors
Thanksgiving. New arrivals were invited to share
in the holidays with volunteers and their families
who planned and cooked a traditional American
Thanksgiving over multiple days.

5

couples married

St. Luke's preformed marriage ceremonies for five families who have made Jamestown their home this past year.

4

local organization engagement events

New arrivals received warm welcomes by local organizations when going to a Jamestown Tarp Skunks game, spending an afternoon at Midway State Park, attending a concert at the Chautauqua Institution, and using the ice bumper cars at Northwest Arena.

4

new citizens

Four children were born to new arrivals in 2023.

## NEIGHBORS

# STORIES OF COMING HOME



#### FOREVER VOWS

New Neighbors was honored to watch Leidy & Ferney come together in holy matrimony at St. Luke's. The couple has been very active in the congregation and Leidy was essential in performing the church's first Spanish-language midnight mass.



### WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

Due to the diligent help of an exceptional volunteer, within a few days of having received his work permit, Jean Carlos, aced his interview with Jones Chevrolet and was offered a job on the spot.



#### CELEBRATE NEW LIFE

Esta Maria Mulonda came into the world on August 30th, joining her parents Mulonda and Salama and her six siblings. She has a sweet disposition and melts your heart with her smile and big eyes. Welcome, baby Esta Marial

### **GROW JAMESTOWN**

2023 was a year of transition for the Jamestown Public & Mobile Market. To start off with, we've changed our name to Grow Jamestown, which better reflects the comprehensive nature of work that we are doing. Yes, we run the Public Market on Saturdays. Yes, we turn the Mobile Market on Wednesdays and Thursdays. AND we do so much more! Just take a look at our Impact Report and you'll get a sense of some of our many programs—like Monday Night Cafe, the CSA, Veggie RX, our Community Garden, our Local Roots contract with Chautauqua County to provide local produce to seniors, and many more!

We are pleased to welcome a new staff member to oversee the work and coordinate volunteers. Please welcome Nick Weith, who has an extensive background in the food system. He has culinary and business undergraduate degrees and a graduate degree in Special Education. If you'd like to volunteer, please reach out to the Rector or contact Nick directly at <a href="mailto:nick.weith@stlukesjamestown.org">nick.weith@stlukesjamestown.org</a>.



#### 2023 Season

### IMPACT REPORT





#### PUBLIC MARKET

- 841 SNAP Transactions for a Total \$12,230 in SNAP/DUFB sales.
- 11 vendors eligible to accept SNAP.
- 22 weekly vendors.

#### MOBILE MARKET

- 190 SNAP transactions at 5 sites from June through September: The Resource Center, The James
   Prendergast Library, Silvertree Senior Housing, The Chautauqua Center, and Bush Elementary.
- Two paid internships for JHS sophomores that allowed them to gain job experience and understand the food system first hand.
- Continued to work with Cornell Cooperative Extension to offer SNAP Nutritional education with Molly Harvey.



#### COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE (CSA)

- 57 households shares in 2023.
- Veggies purchased from local farmers.
- Local economic impact of nearly \$35,000.



#### SPROUTS

 \$828 in sprouts bucks allowed children access to fresh fruit and veggies 414 times over the growing season.



#### **VEGGIE Rx**

With support from Amerigroup and Blue Cross Blue Shield, we expanded the Veggie Rx Program to the North County in Dunkirk and Fredonia. The value of these prescriptions was more than \$12,000.





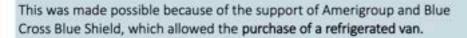
#### COMMUNITY GARDEN

17 garden plots allowed the community to supplement their grocery bills by growing their own.

75 Bush Elementary students joined the Garden club.

#### LOCAL ROOTS

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of our contract with the Chautauqua County to serve seniors food boxes around the county, we fine-tuned our service.







#### FARM TO TABLE DINNER

We celebrated a successful growing season, in partnership with our first prepared food market vendor, Sazón Colombiano, and raised \$1,800 to support the program.

#### **VOLUNTEERS**

We added a new member to the Market's Advisory Committee. For the first time ever, we have one our anchor Public Market vendors on the committee: Welcome Crissy Conklin!

We expanded our base of volunteers who help at the Public and Mobile Markets, including John Panebianco and Brian Kearney who drove the truck for the Mobile Market.



#### SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

Through a grant with NYS, Feeding NY Families, we started the Monday Night Café—which presents locally procured food to create a mixed income dining event on the last Monday of the month July through November. This free meal was served to an average of 75 people per month.





A free bowl making workshop took place to make bowls for the Empty Bowls fundraiser. Thanks to Ron Nasca for leading it!

We brought food expert, Mark Winne to town to talk about his book Food Town USA, and how to <u>not</u> to be a food consumer but rather a food citizen. We still have copies of his book available for anyone who makes a gift to the Public Market. Copies of Mark's book "Food Town USA" are still available!





The SNAPbassador program grew to allow more SNAP beneficiaries to share their lived experience.

For the first time ever, the St. Luke's Kitchen was fully inspected and two of our vendors used the space to create value added products.

#### SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 2023 SEASON SPONSORS

- Amerigroup (BCBS)
- The Chautaugua Center
- The Chautauqua County Empty Bowls
- Chautaugua Region Community Foundation (CRCF)
- Farm Credit East
- · Field and Fork Network
- Jamestown Renaissance Corporation
- · The Lenna Foundation
- The Sheldon Foundation
- St. Luke's Episcopal Church
- · St. Luke's Thrift Shop
- The United Way of Southern Chautaugua

#### \$500+ donors

- Shannon Bessette
- Willow Fodor
- · Charles Hall
- John LaMancuso
- Carrie Wolfgang

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! The 2024 Market Season kicks off June 8th. See you next season!





# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

