



My Two Cents

Can you believe we are almost halfway through 2024 already? I once asked my mother when time started to slow down. She told me it never does—it only goes faster. I think midway through the year is a good time to look at our giving and compare it to our pledge for the year. In that light, during the month of July I will be sending all our faithful pledgers updates on where you stand—are you up to date, are you behind, or are you ahead?

And if you didn't pledge, it is not too late to do so for 2024. **Pledging does matter**, as it helps us know what our expected revenue will be.

Just let me know if you plan to give on a regular basis for the rest of the year, and I will add you to our community of faithful pledgers. Thank you so much for your support of St. Luke's and our many ministries. With all of your help we can make a difference in people's lives.

(Janet Card, Treasurer)

THE VOICE

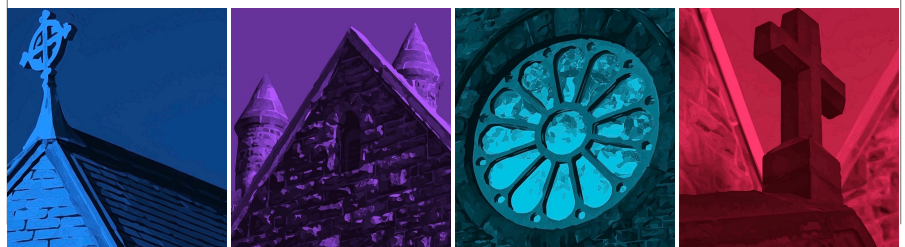
The Joy of Humanity

We recently celebrated our third annual world refugee day with a community celebration in the Wintergarden Plaza. Over 120+ people from the community—including 40 of our new neighbors



—were in attendance, sampling Congolese donuts, receiving elaborate henna tattoos, making friendship bracelets in three languages, sipping traditional Afghan tea and eating Syrian sweets. After a performance of the Sukanya Burman Dance company, my heart was warmed as I watched people of all ages and multiple nationalities, spinning, smiling, and dancing as part of a community dance demonstration under Sukanya's direction. Watching this, I realized that it was a good metaphor for the work that we have been doing these past few years.

This celebration of our human diversity and the honoring of human dignity, requires that each of us join the dance. If you're like, me the mere thought of dancing might fill you with anxiety and dread. Equally worried about making a fool of myself or



Fictional Friends

The next meeting will be held on Monday, **August 19 at 7pm** in the Undercroft to discuss Gillian McAllister's *Wrong Place, Wrong Time*.



New York Times bestselling author Gillian McAllister has created a thriller unlike any other in this endlessly clever, twisty story of a mother who must move backward through time to prevent tragedy from striking at the heart of her family. All are welcome.

Wednesday Group

Our next Wednesday Group gathering will be held on **July 24th** in the Undercroft. Join us at 11:30 am for a Eucharist service, with the Rev. Jessica Frederick leading. Lunch to follow. Call the church office (716-483-6405) for a ride.

MHA Fundraiser

The 2nd Annual Collin Hayes Memorial Cornhole Tournament on **July 19** will share part of their proceeds with MHA. The family-friendly event features music, food, and games. \$100 entry for two-person cornhole teams or \$50 for individuals includes food. (birdease.com/27279).

perhaps demonstrating too much unbridled joy, I avoid the dance floor and smile from the sidelines. I have discovered that I sometimes have the same feelings when I welcome our new neighbors. I wonder if you can relate? It is so exciting to welcome new neighbors to our community, but with the many linguistic and cultural barriers, it can feel like fostering a real relationship is unsurmountable—just like finding the courage to join the dance. And yet, we know dancing requires partners. I want to encourage everyone at St. Luke's to join the dance of relationship. When you see any new neighbors on campus, jump the barriers of language and culture to sway to the international beat of our common humanity. **(Luke Fodor, Rector)**

Reynolds Grant: Iglesia de San Lucas Awarded

For the last 18 months St. Luke's has been welcoming Spanish speaking members on a weekly basis—translating our bulletins and sermons and occasionally singing in Spanish. In 2023, we celebrated 6 bilingual weddings with our friends from Colombia and one first communion bilingual service on a Sunday. Additionally, we have held several services completely in Spanish (thanks to Sister Miriam Joy!).



As we continue to extend our ministry to our Latina/o siblings in Christ, we have some good news. Thanks to Paul Johnson's grant-writing skills, the Diocese recently granted St. Luke's \$10,000 to expand our efforts. The funds will be used for four purposes: (1) Our priests will receive Spanish language training; (2) St. Luke's will convene a special latin music worship/workshop for the diocese; (3) The procurement of Spanish language musical resources; and (4) The installation of bilingual signage around our campus.

As we continue to work to build a new manifestation of our St. Luke's that is relevant to Spanish speakers and the Latino/a community, we need your help. Do you have a passion for cross-cultural communication? Please contact the Rector.

Say Hey! Welcome Summer Market Coordinator: Sei Paulson

Sei Paulson started her horticultural career 16 years ago, watering annuals at Baker's Acres greenhouse in Ithaca, New York. Since then she has studied classical literature in Japan, taught American culture in China, and worked as the head gardener at an historic herb garden in Maine. She has also been a co-op produce manager, farmer's market manager, and a vineyard research assistant for Penn State. Her hobbies include translating Norwegian poetry, Telugu action movies, and world cuisine. She lives in French Creek with her wife Jill and elderly chihuahua Digby, where she runs a garden seed business specializing in rare vegetables. Sei's chief responsibilities this summer are running the Jamestown Public & Mobile Markets and coordinating the Market's contracted-service program, Local Roots, which is a senior nutrition program run by the Office for the Aging that delivers free veggies to independent senior living complexes around the county.



Mobile Market Partners with Cornell Cooperative Extension



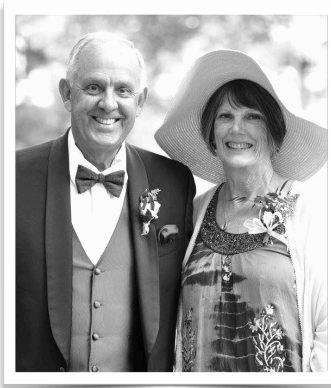
This summer there is more reason than ever to shop at the Mobile Market for those who are experiencing food insecurity. Through a NYS Feeding NY Families grant, Cornell Cooperative Extension is providing the Mobile Market with free local food boxes (approximate weight 8-10 lbs and value of \$20) to those who are experiencing hunger and need. Boxes will be available at each Mobile Market stop on Wednesdays and Thursdays on a first come-first serve basis.

Produce in the boxes are shelf-stable items that range from honey, jugs of cider, local veggies, and fruit. After receiving these items, individuals can augment their provisions by shopping at the Mobile Market using their SNAP benefits and receive double the value with DoubleUp Bucks. **(Nick Weith, Food Access Manager)**

George O'Pray Planned Giving Society New Chair

I am pleased to announce that **Cáitlín O'Reilly** (a former member of Vestry, the Choir, and composer of our Blue Bag song) has not only returned to St. Luke's but has agreed to be the new Chair of the George O'Pray Planned Giving Society. You will soon hear about a number of events this fall, but in the meantime, Cáitlín offers this meditation: **(Luke Fodor, Rector)**

Whether it is our own eventual death or that of a loved one, it is a topic most of us want to avoid at all costs. In actuality, it is the kindest thing we can do for ourselves and our loved ones. Just after the death of my husband, Tom, last year, I met a woman who was completely unprepared for her own



Monday Night Cafe



The next Monday Night Cafe is on **July 29th at 6:00 pm**. As always volunteers are welcome to nick.weith@stlukesjamestown.org

Volunteer STARS

The United Way recently celebrated the power of volunteers in our community. Two stalwarts from our St. Luke's community, **Janet Card** and **Brian Kearney**, were selected as Volunteers of the Year for Chautauqua Striders and Grow Jamestown, respectively. We are so proud of all that they do to make our community better.



husband's death. He had taken care of everything, including gassing up her car. She did not know where the checkbook was. She had to learn to fill her car with gas. I am grateful that Tom and I discussed almost everything before he died quite rapidly and unexpectedly due to complications from Parkinson's Disease.

I was fortunate. I had already been through the death of both of my parents. I was a hospice music therapist for seven years. I had been single for much of my life and had to manage my own affairs. I had been handling our affairs for the last eight months of Tom's life. And it was still difficult. There were some things we did not take care of properly that made handling financial aspects challenging.

You might be wondering why I am sharing this. I think it is important for every person to have a will—at the very least. If you are a parent of children under the age of 18, they need to be provided for, and guardians need to be designated. If you are divorced, you want to ensure your assets are distributed according to your wishes. If you have no children, you want to leave instructions for the division of your assets to nieces or nephews, brothers or sisters, or charitable organizations.

There is a lot involved in making sure your family is free to grieve your death rather than be burdened with the results of matters you never planned with them. It wasn't until the morning Tom died that I realized we had not talked about which crematorium to use. Thankfully the hospice nurse was able to help me because I was in no shape to figure that out.

Planning ahead as much as possible is a gift to your family and yourself, knowing you are taking care of them in the small and the big ways. (**Cáitlín O'Reilly, Chair of George O'Pray Society**)

Call for Confirmands in 2024-25

Confirmation is a sacrament in which persons make a mature, public affirmation of their faith, a commitment to the responsibilities of the Christian life, and receive the laying on of hands by the bishop. (Literally, the person is confirming the promises that were made for him or her at baptism.) By custom, young people are prepared for confirmation through a year-long process of study and community service. Youth entering 10th grade and up are invited to join us for our next confirmation class,

starting in the fall. Youth who are taking (or have taken) confirmation class are also eligible to go on St. Luke's youth pilgrimage—such as the one that eight youth took along the Italian Via Francigena in February. Beginning plans are currently underway for St. Luke's next youth pilgrimage in the **spring of 2026**. Contact Jessica Frederick (jessica.frederick@stlukesjamestown.org) with questions or interest. Stay tuned for details!



Education for Ministry (EfM)



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. This year, the group is filling up fast with limited remaining space for new participants *so don't delay* reaching out for information. Enrollment will open in mid-July, earlier than usual this year for sessions beginning in September. If you are interested in exploring faith, growing in personal understanding, expanding knowledge of biblical interpretation and perhaps have what you think you know challenged like never before, this may be the right adventure to embark on. Participation helps discern, develop, and carry out ministries as a lay person, ultimately transforming participants. Faithful people encounter the breadth and depth of Christian tradition through conversation, sharing of experiences, study, worship, and engaging theological reflection. Participants of any faith background or no background desiring to learn more are welcome.

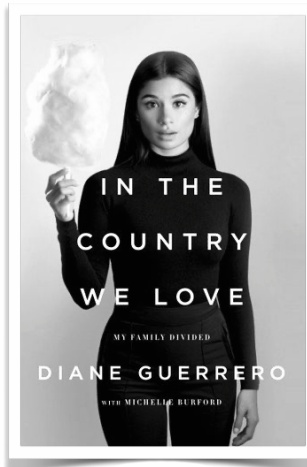
EfM is a four-year program that emphasizes a different area of knowledge each year. Participants from each of the four years meet as a group with study coordinated to have commonality despite different weekly assignments. Year 1 (Hebrew Bible), year 2 (New Testament), year 3 (church history), and Year 4 (on theology, ethics, & 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. Speak to anyone currently enrolled or finished with the program and you will find this is a cohesive group of amazing people on an incredible journey.

For more information, please contact Certified Mentor, Karl Costello (kbc362000@hotmail.com) or 716-397-3327

August Global Perspectives Book Club Meeting

Thank you to all those who came to our Global Perspectives Book Club meeting in June. Our discussions and time together is one of the highlights of my month. Our next Global Perspectives book club meeting will take place on **Monday, August 12, 2024 at 7pm** in the Fenn Library at St. Luke's Church (in the undercroft, behind Johnson Stage). I have attached a flyer for the event. Any promotion would be very appreciated!

The next book we will be reading is *In The Country We Love: My Family Divided* by Diane Guerrero: *In the Country* is a moving, heartbreaking story of one woman's extraordinary resilience in the face of the nightmarish struggles of undocumented residents in this country. There are over 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the US, many of whom have citizen children, whose lives here are just as precarious, and whose stories haven't been told. Written with Michelle Burford, this memoir is a tale of personal triumph that also casts a much-needed light on the fears that haunt the daily existence of families like the author's and on a system that fails them over and over." Here is the link to purchase the book through Lakewood's Good Neighbor Bookstore's website: <https://goodneighborbooks.com/book/9781250134967>



It's Time to Register for Diocesan Summer Camp!

This year, Diocesan Summer Camp will take place August 11-14 at **Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center** in Bemus Point. All students finishing grades 2 through 12 from the partnership are welcome to attend.

Campers will be placed in cabin groups according to age and will participate in various camp activities, including boating, swimming, arts and crafts, games, baking, GaGa ball, archery, and a high ropes course.

The cost for camp is \$240, with scholarships available upon request. Contact Wendy Schumacher (wschumacher@episcopalpartnership.org) regarding scholarships and any additional questions. Register at: <https://tinyurl.com/WNYDiocesanCamp24>

New Neighbors Tarp Skunks Game on July 11th

Join new neighbors at the buyout Tarp Skunks game on **Thursday, July 11th at 6:30pm**, made possible by the generosity of Live CHQ. We are excited to enjoy America's favorite pastime alongside new arrivals and the community. There is no cost to attend, and the event promises to be a fun time as the Jamestown Tarp Skunks take on the Geneva Red Wings. The game is at Russell E. Diethrick, Jr. Park at 485 Falconer Street in Jamestown (JCC campus).



The New Neighbors Coalition hosted this event last summer and a great time was had by all! We are looking forward to bringing an even bigger, more diverse crowd this year! Please come join in on the excitement and wear your best black, blue, and white. If you are interested in attending the event, please reach out to New Neighbors Manager, Momina Di Blasio, at momina@stlukesjamestown.org or call the parish house at (716) 664-6405, so we know to save you a seat!

Have You Met Yet? John and Michelle Novotny

John and Michele Novotny reside in Bemus Point. After living in a few locations, including Syracuse NY and Lenox MA, the Novotnys decided to bring their young family back to Michele's hometown to raise their kids around family. They've been here ever since enjoying the area. John works for Corning Inc. as an



environmental engineer and Michele recently started a business, White Elm Designs, and is also involved with a real estate team doing design and staging.

John and Michele have 3 incredible children: Sarah (Buffalo, NY); Alexandra (Stafford, VA); and Jack (New York, NY). Their daughter Alex and husband Stephen blessed them with their 1st grandson last August named Luca James. The Novotnys are also excited for the upcoming wedding of their daughter Sarah and her beautiful partner Angel in September. John and Michele's son Jack recently graduated from FIT in

NY and will be starting his career in fashion.

John and Michele's faith journey lead them to St. Lukes after struggling to feel like a part of a church that would accept their entire family. They needed to be a part of a church that was accepting of all. They visited a few different churches but immediately knew that St. Lukes was going to be their new place of worship after the very first service. John and Michele both feel at home with themselves and their religion here and are very grateful and blessed to be a part of the St. Luke's family.

Forest Church/Church of the Wild Reconvenes on July 13 at 10:00 am

Our next foray into the forest to find and root our faith is on **Saturday, July 13 at 10am**. We'll be gathering at the Chataqua Watershed Preserve, Dobbins Woods (located at 5291 Bly Hill Rd, in Ashville). All ages are welcome to attend and we will gather for about 90 minutes or so. There are approximately 5 parking spaces, so we may attempt to carpool. Please contact the Rector (Luke.Fodor@stlukesjamestown.org) with questions and to confirm your interest.



Read Around the World Summer Reading Challenge

Are you an avid reader and looking for a way to expand your horizons and learn more about different perspectives? Join the New Neighbors Coalition's Read Around the World Summer Reading Challenge! Readers of ALL ages and grade levels are eligible to participate. Stop by the St. Luke's Church parish house at 410 N Main Street in Jamestown to register and, pick-up a reading log and a corresponding recommended reading list ranging from birth through 2nd grade, 3rd through 6th grade, teens, and adults. Those participating must read the required number of books in their allotted age group, with 50% of those books being written by an international/immigrant author. We encourage participants to read books that fit the criteria but are not on the recommended list, as long as it fits the criteria! Readers will have until August 30th to complete their reading goal and submit their logs to St. Luke's Church to receive their prize: a gift card for an ice cream cone at The Pine Cone Creamery on 209 Pine Street in Jamestown. Happy reading, adventurers! Contact Momina Di Blasio (momina@stlukesjamestown.org).



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