



The New Humanity

February 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:

- From the Pastor's Fireside
- From the Loft
- Announcements

From the
Pastor's
Fireside
Pastor Jason Churchill



2026 - A Year of Education

St. Luke & Me: Learning the Story We Pray

Gathering • Word • Meal • Sending

This Lent, we invite you to slow down and learn the story we pray every Sunday.

Our worship is more than habit or routine—it is deeply rooted in Scripture, shaped by centuries of faith, and formed to tell the story of God’s love again and again. From the words we speak, to the songs we sing, to the movements we make, our liturgy is grounded in the Bible and in the life of the early church.

Throughout the Sundays of Lent, we will explore worship in four movements:

Gathering, Word, Meal, and Sending.

Each Sunday will focus on one part of the liturgy, followed by a forum that dives more deeply into where these elements come from, how they are rooted in Scripture, and how they shape us as the people of God.

Many people are surprised to learn just how much of our worship comes directly from Scripture—our prayers echo the Psalms, our songs proclaim the gospel, and even our gestures and responses are biblical acts of faith. This Lent, we will learn not only *what* we do in worship, but *why* we do it.

Lent has many spiritual disciplines. This year, in keeping with our Year of Education, we invite you to consider learning as a holy practice. Perhaps instead of—or in addition to—giving something up, you might commit to showing up each Sunday to learn about the portions of liturgy that shape our lives together. Showing up comes in many forms from worship, to conversation, and to shared reflection as we renew and refresh ourselves on the journey toward Easter.

In addition to Sunday worship and forums, we will also offer:

- A **midweek book study**
- A short **“Pray and Reflect Together”** moment on social media throughout the season

Wherever you are in your faith, you belong here. Come walk with us through the liturgy that forms us, teaches us, and sends us into the world in love.



From the Loft

Erik Kibelsbeck
Music Director

Things are happening in our world that I never expected to see.

My inner struggle to know how to respond has been great.

Sometimes our lectionary, which largely drives our choices of hymns and other music, seems separate from our world, and I am tempted to divert to focus wholly on social justice, inspiring action to stabilize our world, and encourage truth.

Yet the callings are there in our weekly readings and proclamation. Prayer and praise are deeply needed human actions, which should not be denied us. And lifting our voices together in song is perhaps more needed than ever. My temptation to take away this foundation is, upon further reflection, short sighted.

So while not every hymn, anthem, or liturgy will feel connected to the concerns of our time, there are still concepts of importance and relevance to be found. So we carry on, and find our way forward, taking inspiration from word and sounds hundreds of years old, and those more recent as well. "Through the church the song goes on." May the prayer, proclamation, and praise guide our wisdom and actions in our world.

Announcements



Compline
(nightsong)

Experience prayerful music by candlelight to heal your soul. Thursday, February 5th from 8:00 - 8:30 PM at First Baptist Church in Ithaca.

The poster features a dark background with a decorative border of stylized branches and leaves. In the center, there is a circular inset photograph showing a church interior where several people in red robes are singing from music stands. To the right of the photo, a single lit candle is shown, casting a warm glow.

FIRST FRIDAY ***SPAGHETTI*** ***DINNER***

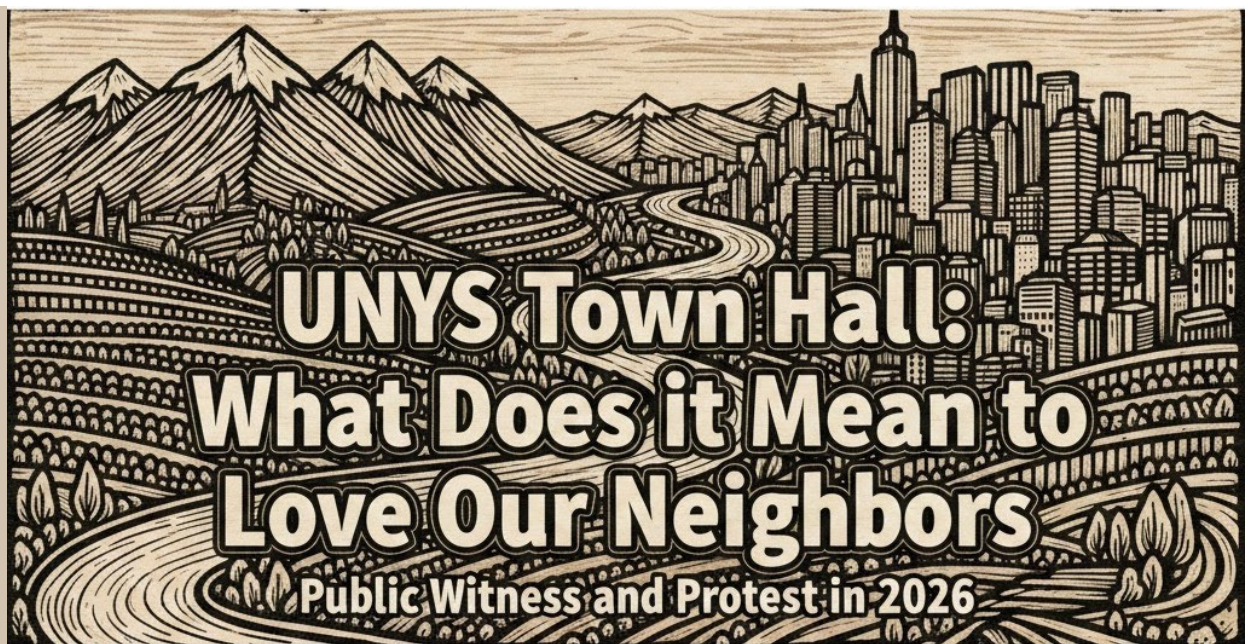
6PM

FREE SPAGHETTI
DINNER ON THE
FIRST FRIDAY OF
EVERY MONTH

ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

109 OAK AVE





In the parable of the Good Samaritan Jesus invites us to see each person as God has created them, in the Imago Dei, the Image of the Divine's own loving kindness. Jesus shares the story as a response to one who asks the question, "who is my neighbor." Jesus makes it clear that a neighbor is one who sees brokenness. Who acts to bring healing and wholeness. Who shelters and shows mercy and kindness to another whether they are like us or unlike.

How are you practicing the love for our neighbors who are immigrants, asylum seekers, new Americans, members of the LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC communities and are being dehumanized, threatened, terrorized, incarcerated, and killed in the name of good order? This is not a partisan question, but a public question and a question for the body of Christ.

What is our Public Witness? How does Love Activate us for Justice and Joy?

Everyone is invited to join members of the synod staff for a time to pray, lament, process, and reflect on what is happening in our own communities and share ways that we are caring for our neighbors. Receive information and connections to resources for additional training, advocacy, and community organizing opportunities. Come and share in community and to be encouraged that we are not alone; you are not alone.

Thursday, February 12, 2026
6:00pm

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82150297563>

Feeding the Hungry

Code Blue Shelter Update: Wow! St

Luke donated 340 items to the Code Blue Shelter in the month of January. This included 130 drink boxes, 99 breakfast bars, 79 instant oatmeal packets, 25 toothbrushes and assorted condiments and peanut butter (7 items). Because of the very cold weather, the Cold Blue Shelter staff are now providing lunches for clients, and they have made a request for condiments and shelf-stable items for preparing lunches. Thank you all for your donations! Keep up the great effort for February.



*Code Blue shelter is now serving lunch due to the frigid temperatures. They are asking for **condiments and shelf-stable items** for preparing lunches. Thank you!*



Blue Wagon for the Blue Cabinet
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 toilet paper are always welcome. Thank you for supporting this ministry!

RED WAGON for the Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard items for February: instant oatmeal packets, 100% juice boxes, and breakfast bars - to be shared between the IKC and the Code Blue Shelter.

LAMENTATIONS OF JEREMIAH

Lenten Polyphony by Orlandus Lassus

Written in 1584, The *Lamentations of Jeremiah* by Orlando Lassus contain many themes that still resonate in our modern world. This stunning Renaissance polyphony will be sung by an intimate group of 14 singers in a contemplative performance on the first Sunday in Lent: Sunday, February 22, 2026 at 4:00 at Saint Luke Lutheran Church in Ithaca, 109 Oak Ave. For more information, please contact southerntiersingers@gmail.com.

We pray together for:

... Thomas, William, Anne, Dave Wohlheuter, Brenda, Kathy, people of Venezuela and other nations experiencing violence and unrest, and those affected by weather and natural disaster, the people of Minneapolis and all those affected by gun violence.

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

Thursday, February 5

9:00 am	Peace by Piece Quilters
1:00 pm	CCC Events Committee
8:00 pm.	Compline at First Baptist Church

Friday, February 6

10:30 am. Tea and Tarot
6:00 pm. First Friday Spaghetti Dinner

Sunday, February 8

10:00 am Holy Communion
11:45 am Godly Play

Tuesday, February 10

12:15 pm. Bring Your Own Lunch Bible Study

Wednesday, February 11

10:00 am. Staff Meeting
1:00 pm. Collegetown Community Collective

Thursday, February 12

1:00 pm. CCC Events Committee
6:00 pm. UNYS Town Hall on Zoom
6:45 pm. Compline at Longview
8:00 pm. Compline at Muller

*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!***

Download Our Church App!

Download our St. Luke Lutheran church app for free.

Download now



**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.

[Worship](#)

[Website](#)

[Give](#)