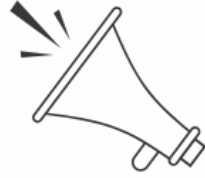




St. Luke
Lutheran Church



Announcements

April 16, 2026

**Welcome to our weekly
Announcements email!**

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

In this week's Announcements you can read about:

- Eastertide Book Study
- Compline
- Personal Care Kits
- Blue and Red Wagons
- Praying Together
- Calendar

CONNECT in COMMUNITY

Two members of our community are celebrating significant birthdays this spring: Joe Metz will be celebrating his 102nd birthday in April and Velma Markwardt will be 103 on May 17!

HOPE THAT WILL NOT BE EXTINGUISHED



ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH

BOOK STUDY

STLUKEITHACA.ORG

Thursdays | 6:00 PM | Zoom | Start Date TBD

Order your book now and begin reading!

Written not only by a survivor of apartheid South Africa, but by a witness to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission—a process that laid bare some of the darkest realities of the human condition—this work dares to proclaim something deeper: that we are, at our core, made for goodness.

With Tutu and his daughter as our guides, we will explore how that spark of goodness remains alive within us—and how hope, grounded in truth, can shape the way we live, love, and act in the world.

Book Study UPDATE: We want to wait to start until everyone has their books. So order yours now and begin reading. Start date for discussion is TBD.

This Easter season at St. Luke, we invite you into a story of hope—one that refuses to yield to despair.

Desmond Tutu and Mpho Tutu, *Made for Goodness: And Why This Makes All the Difference*. New York: HarperOne, 2010.

In a time when many are made to feel powerless—or even hopeless—we turn again to the Gospel story we have walked through in Lent: a journey that leads us to the dawn of Easter morning, where light breaks through and shadows do not have the final word.

So too in this book. Written not only by a survivor of apartheid South Africa, but by a witness to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission—a process that laid bare some of the darkest realities of the human condition—this work dares to proclaim something deeper: that we are, at our core, made for goodness.

With Tutu and his daughter as our guides, we will explore how that spark of goodness remains alive within us—and how hope, grounded in truth, can shape the way we live, love, and act in the world.

Details:

- Thursdays at 6:00 PM (via Zoom)
- Start Date TBD: we want to wait until everyone has their books first! So order yours now and begin reading.
- First session: Introduction + Chapters 1–3

We encourage you to purchase the book locally from one of these shops:

- [The Protagonist Coffee & Books](#)
- [All My Friends Books](#)
- [Odyssey Bookstore](#)
- [Buffalo Street Books](#)

Come as you are. Bring your questions, your hopes, your doubts.

Because Easter does not deny the darkness—it proclaims, with clarity and courage, that it does not win.



“Until All of Us are Free” Transpose in Concert at St. Luke

On Sunday, April 26th, Transpose will perform their Spring concert “Until All of Us are Free”, at 4:00 PM at St. Luke’s Church, at 109 Oak Ave.

Until All of Us are Free is a proclamation to the world that we will stand together and sing, no matter how hard life gets or who tries to silence us. Featuring their signature range of musical styles from a song rooted in Macedonian folk music to turn-of-the-century queer punk rock, each song cements our need for community, music, and for each other. Included in the concert, are original compositions, like Polyrhythms, a melodic homage to polyrhythmic music and polyamory by former director Jonah Hirst, as well as Lazarus Drug, an adaptation of an indie-pop song younger fans and their folks recognize from the TV show Bluey. Always aiming to honor icons and send the audience home with light hearts, the evening will also include a medley of Dolly Parton toe-tappers.

The concert is conducted and directed by Co-Directors Avery Saccente and Miles Ludeck. The

choir will be accompanied by Miles Ludeck on piano.

EVERY SACCENTE (she/her) is so thrilled to make beautiful music with her queer community! After graduating college with a bachelors in music, she's been trapped in the throes of food service purgatory, lacking a community to share her love of choral music until last year, when she moved to Ithaca and joined Transpose!

She's run the gamut of musical experiences, from high school show choir to Verdi's requiem, to singing with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus. Her proudest achievement, though, is getting to lead her dearest friends and community in joyful song! At home, she obsesses over tabletop roleplaying games and making fun of her adorable black cat Oliver.

MILES LUDECK (he/him) is honored and delighted to take on directing duties for his second season with Transpose! Originally from Rochester, NY, Miles is a lifelong choral singer, beginning with the Bach Children's Chorus. Miles has sung with Rochester-based Madrigalia and Ithaca Community Chorus/Chamber Singers, and is currently a member of Cayuga Vocal Ensemble under Dr. Sean Linfors. Miles also plays piano/keyboards for musical theatre productions with Walking on Water Productions, Ithaca City School District, and most recently for the Hangar Theatre's production of Waitress. Miles is grateful to have the opportunity to expand into choral directing with such a welcoming and forgiving group, and hopes to exercise some creativity with Transpose going forward!

Transpose: Ithaca Queer Singers Alliance is a non-auditioned community chorus that celebrates queer, trans, and non-binary identities through the joy of singing. Their mission is to create beautiful music in a supportive and accessible environment which empowers LGBTQIA+ singers.

Transpose is one of the Affiliated Choruses of Ithaca, an organization providing opportunities for Tompkins County residents to perform in professionally directed choral groups. Transpose has received grants from the Community Arts Partnership, Beginnings Credit Union, Legacy Foundation of Tompkins County, and The Trans Justice Funding Project.

The chorus has performed at Porchfest, Ithaca Pride, Southern Finger Lakes Pride, Rochester Gay Men's Chorus 40th Anniversary Fabulous Friends Concert, and Ithaca senior care facilities.

The chorus would like to thank the First Baptist Church of Ithaca for providing rehearsal space and other support since Transpose's inception as IGMC. Special thanks to St. Luke's for hosting us this Spring.

Proceeds from the concert will go towards the chorus' annual operating expenses. Entry is free will, \$15 suggested. Children 12 and under are welcome. The chorus appreciates the generous support of concertgoers and various businesses and organizations throughout the community.

If you are interested in joining the chorus or would like more information, write to transposeithaca@gmail.com



Compline Series to Conclude after Six Year Run

A message from Erik:

I was in Seattle once, and noted they had a sung night prayer service at the Cathedral and thought, that sounds like something I'd like, so I went, expecting a handful of listeners. Instead I found a full cathedral with people lying on the floor to listen because the pews were full. More recently I have attended the ones in Rochester, which have also built a huge following through splendid choral singing. Every time I have gone to compline in Rochester I have felt washed and energized. And I sang with a group at Cornell which did them for multiple years. And then came covid, and the Cornell group shut down.

I decided to get it going at St. Luke: at first it was entirely online with four singers, spread out. Eventually the number of singers grew, and we opened it to live listeners. Over the years, the singers certainly found it worthwhile to do for themselves, even though the number of listeners remained low. A move to Anabel Taylor Chapel didn't help attendance, but when we started going other places, it seemed we might catch on---there were even times when listeners outnumbered singers. There have been some who really love to come and listen, or listen online, since we have continued to livestream. Our aim all along has been to create a time out of time in the week, where a familiar order of liturgy, enhanced with beautiful choral music, can bring peace to souls.

While I'm very proud of what we have accomplished, it also feels like the time to bring the chapter to a close, at least for now. Thanks and appreciation from the bottom of my heart to everyone who has sung with the group and/or attended the service. Sophie, Lynn, Jeff, and Geoff have been with it from the beginning. Special mention to our livestreamer Andy Antal as well, for being there when we were at St. Luke and then for much hauling, setting up, and tearing down of equipment after that.

There WILL be just ONE more compline service, on April 30 at 8pm. We chose the location for its splendid acoustics and easy parking: Immaculate Conception Church downtown. We'll

be doing my favorite anthem of all time, plus the choir's favorite Nunc Dimittis and Lord's Prayer. It should be splendid. All are invited! I am cognizant that some people aren't keen to enter a Catholic church--- but know that what we do there is the same as what we do elsewhere.

And for now, the archive of past services will remain at our YouTube channel: ["Compline from St. Luke Ithaca"](#)

SERVE in COMMUNITY

Our next outreach and social ministry meeting is scheduled for Thursday evening, 4/23, at 7pm. Contact [Judy Tennant](#) for more information.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

PERSONAL CARE KITS

Thank you for all of your donations of items and funds for the LWR PCK project. To meet our goal of assembling 50 kits, we still need:

- **21** lightweight bath towels (dark colors)
- **31** nail clippers
- **44** bars of bath soap (4 oz each)

Please place donations in the collection box near the office in the narthex. Monetary donations for items and shipping costs are also welcome and we will purchase needed items (Please mark checks / envelopes with "Personal Care Kit" and place donations in the offertory plate or give online here [Personal Care Kit](#)).

Will be collecting until April 12, 2026.

LOVING OUR NEIGHBORS IN ITHACA

Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard: Personal Care Items are Items are needed for the Red Wagon during the month of April, including bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, and diapers. Also, we need reusable grocery-sized bags for the clients using the IKC. Please place the bags near the Red Wagon. Thank you!

Code Blue Shelter: Thank You to the many folks at St. Luke who donated food to support the Code Blue Shelter which needed breakfast and lunch items for their clients during this very cold winter and spring. Our last donation of April included 44 drink boxes, 16 breakfast bars, and 62 instant oatmeal packets (122 items). The Grand Total for all items donated this winter was **959** items! The Outreach and Social Ministry Committee thanks you for your generous hearts and actions.



DONATE TO IKC



BLUE WAGON for the BLUE CABINET:

Spring is here and temperatures seem to be above freezing, so no more worries about cans exploding in our 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!

Community Support of the Blue Cabinet: St. Luke would like to thank Ethan Lin and members of the Cornell Hunger Relief Program for stocking the Blue Cabinet which stands in front of St. Luke. Here is a description of their program: *The Cornell Hunger Relief Program (CHRP) is a student-led organization of the Einhorn Center dedicated to addressing food insecurity in Ithaca and Tompkins County through volunteering, education, and advocacy. For more information or to get involved, please contact us at cornellhungerrelief@cornell.edu or follow us on Instagram @cornellhungerrelief.*

We pray together...

...for Lu, Grace, Hravn, Terry and Diane. For communities experiencing war, famine, and strife.

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, April 16

9:00 am. Peace by Piece Quilters
1:00 pm CCC Events Committee

Friday, April 17

10:30 am. Tea and Tarot at Cornell

Sunday, April 19

10:00 am Holy Communion

Tuesday, April 21

No Bible Study today.

Wednesday, April 22

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

Thursday, April 23

1:00 pm. CCC Events Committee
7:00 pm. Transpose Concert

Friday, April 24

10:30 am. Tea and Tarot at Cornell

*The 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.

Remember, God loves you!

[Website](#)

[Give](#)

[Calendar](#)



Service of Holy Communion ~ Sundays at 10:00 am

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

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Our mailing address is:

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