

The New Humanity

a monthly newsletter from



October 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:

- Fireside Chat
- Committee Spotlight
- From the Loft
- Point and Click
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From the Pastor's Fireside

Pastor Jason Churchill



Welcome, Vicar Todd!

Many of you already know Todd Eames from his ministry among us as a Synod Authorized Minister (SAM), including stepping in to lead worship when I am away. I'm delighted that Todd is now beginning his internship year with us at St. Luke, serving about ten hours a week while continuing his ministry with Journey of Faith in Vestal.

Thanks to residual income from the now-closed Zollinkofer Trust, we are grateful to be able to welcome Todd into this new role as Vicar Todd and to be part of his formation for ministry. Please take a moment to introduce yourself and welcome him when you see him—especially at First Fridays! And join us as we officially install Vicar Todd on Reformation Sunday, October 25.

We're grateful to have you with us, Vicar Todd, and excited for this year of ministry and learning together!

A message from Vicar Todd...



My name is Todd Eames. I was born and grew up in Binghamton (NY) and currently live in Vestal (NY). I am married with three adult(ish) daughters. I retired a couple years back, after 30 years working as an auditor for New York State. I took two weeks off, then started classes at United Lutheran Seminary in Gettysburg. I am a candidate in the TEEM program there (TEEM=Theological Education for Emerging Ministries). I am also an ELCA Mission Developer for Journey of Faith - a SAWC (Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community) in Vestal. You may also already know that I am the Treasurer for the Upstate NY Synod. I enjoy hanging out with my bride of 33 years, cooking, woodworking, reading, traveling, and nerding out on all-things-data, and Bible conversations. I am very much looking forward to our opportunity to grow together. Peace!

Committee Spotlight

Campus Ministry Committee

by Janelle Alvstad-Mattson

Janelle and Neil Mattson are excited to be stepping in as co-chairs of the Campus Ministry Committee. Neil is a professor at Cornell, and they have been active with study hours and our Pride festival booth, and now their oldest, Nellia, is in college at UVM in Burlington, so it's a great fit.



They are especially excited as we grow our First Friday dinners with expanded menus and the open Art Gallery. We've also enjoyed handing out welcome bags to students this fall and seeing increased student participation from Ithaca College. Please help us extending a warm welcome to any students you see at St. Luke and in the community.



From the Loft

Erik Kibelsbeck
Music Director

ON OCTOBER 18, MUSIC AT ST. LUKE kicks off with an event that could create a spinoff series "Coffeehouse at St. Luke." In a recent sermon we heard about "The Unmuzzled Ox," a basement coffeehouse type space in the house that belonged to the church where the addition to the building now sits. This was the inspiration for inviting The Wax Matches (Jenny Stockdale, Cass Barbour, and Jessica Caporizzo) for a performance in the Fellowship Hall of original Americana and folk music. Doors open at 3:15 for socializing, drinks, and

refreshments, with music beginning at 4. We'll do our best to create the moody atmosphere of the Unmuzzled Ox and great food and drink.

point & click

Kimberly Fick
Communications Manager



The beginning of the fall semester is always a bit busier in the Communications department: new events to design promotional materials for, new routines and schedules, and a whole lot of new hope that God will work some new things in us, too.

In the midst of all the new endeavors, I have been slowly catching up on the summer alumni connection project. In August we sent out over 1500 postcards inviting old and new contacts to join us for the Welcome Back to Church Sunday. Of those 1500 postcards, about 360 were returned with wrong addresses. For a mailing list that was at least 5 years out of date, a 24% return rate is actually very typical and in line with our expectations.

So what's next? I will work through the returned postcards and update our database. As we continue to connect with our alumni and friends our prayer is that they will recognize the important work St. Luke is doing here in the Ithaca and Cornell communities and support it with prayer and giving.

We have witnessed this past week how broken our world is, and perhaps even more acutely how deeply the brokenness runs just outside the church doors at Cornell. Students and neighbors need to know that God sees them, and that God is both a God of justice and a God of healing. Our job is to be an extension of that loving kindness, safety, compassion, and justice. So we continue our work of communicating that clearly online, in print, every Sunday in worship, and every day out in the world as we walk in the Spirit.

A Pastoral Letter

from Rev. Dr. Jason Churchill

regarding allegations of violence at Cornell University.

Click here to read the letter in full.



Announcements



GODLY PLAY

St. Luke Lutheran Church School

Second Sundays at 11:30 AM

**Oct 11, Nov 8, Dec 13, Jan 10
Feb 14, Mar 14, Apr 11**

Lots of ways you can help!

- Build/Craft Volunteer**
 - Nesting kneeling/floor tables
 - Banners, cards, work mats
 - Wooden story sets
- Classroom Volunteer**
 - Greeter, storyteller
 - Music leaders
 - Snack providers, etc

Most Needed:

- Volunteers
- Lesson sets
- Classroom storage (bins/baskets)
- Art supplies (paint trays, clay, etc)
- Work rugs
- Monetary donations for trainings

Contact: Mandy Kempf

amandakemp18@gmail.com

bit.ly/StLukeChurchSchool

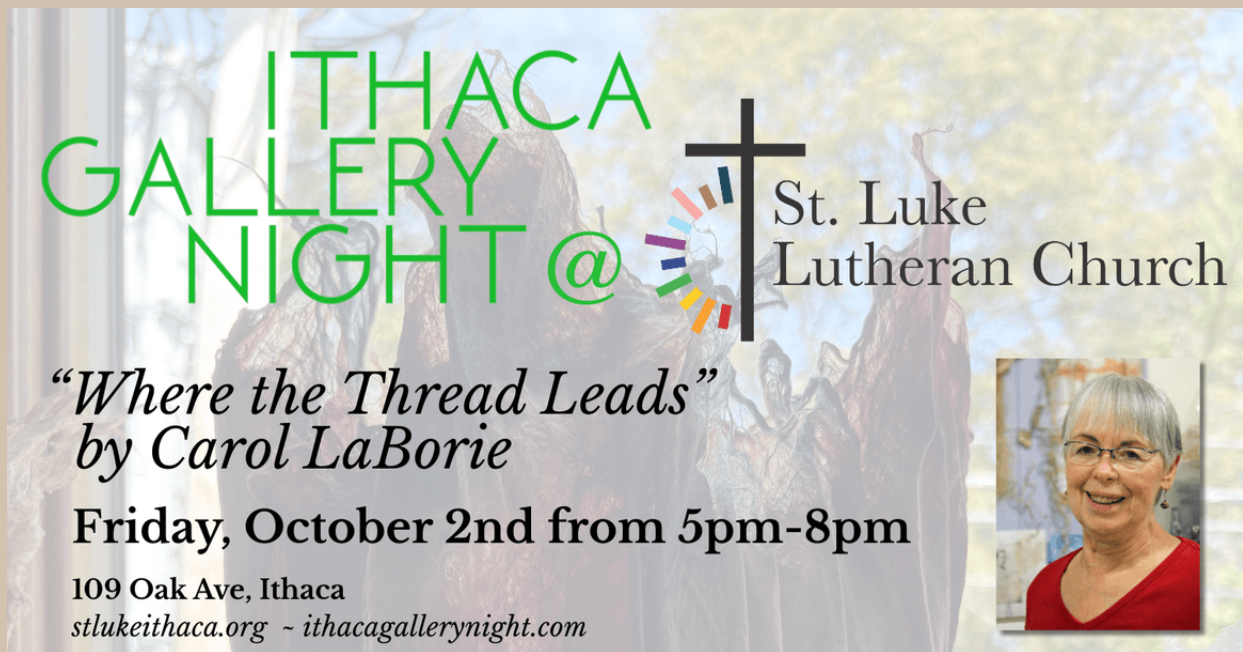
Click here or visit this site to volunteer!

Godly Play church school begins next Sunday, October 11! We are looking for volunteers to

help in a variety of ways, not just leading the lessons. If you would like to help provide supplies, create needed items, or lead the lessons, please reach out to Mandy Kempf.

Email Mandy Kempf

Sign up to Volunteer

The poster features a background image of a large, abstract sculpture made of draped fabric. Overlaid on this is the text 'ITHACA GALLERY NIGHT @' in large green letters. To the right is a logo consisting of a black cross with colorful threads weaving through it. Further right, 'St. Luke Lutheran Church' is written in a serif font. Below the main title, the exhibition title '“Where the Thread Leads” by Carol LaBorie' is written in a script font. The date and time 'Friday, October 2nd from 5pm-8pm' are in a bold sans-serif font. At the bottom left, the address '109 Oak Ave, Ithaca' and website 'stlukeithaca.org ~ ithacagallerynight.com' are listed. On the right side, there is a small portrait photo of Carol LaBorie, a woman with short grey hair and glasses, wearing a red top.

ITHACA
GALLERY
NIGHT @

St. Luke
Lutheran Church

*“Where the Thread Leads”
by Carol LaBorie*

Friday, October 2nd from 5pm-8pm

109 Oak Ave, Ithaca
stlukeithaca.org ~ ithacagallerynight.com

Where the Thread Leads

Join us Friday evening at St. Luke for an exhibit of Carol LaBorie's artwork from 5 pm-8 pm.

Carol LaBorie is a multidisciplinary artist whose work grows from a lifelong curiosity about materials and processes. Over more than twenty years, she has explored photography, quilt making, knitting, hand spinning, painting with acrylics and encaustics, bookbinding, papermaking, metalwork, felting, botanical printing, fabric surface design, and sculpture. Across this wide range of practices, she discovered a steady throughline: an enduring pull toward textiles, fiber, and paper. Today these materials form the foundation of her work, enriched by the skills and insights gained from every medium in which she has worked.

Artist's Statement: *This exhibition, Where the Thread Leads, is a story of returning, of recognizing the materials that have always held my attention and honoring the many mediums that shaped the way I understand them now. Each piece is a point along the path – an artifact of exploration, a record of skill-building, a moment of discovery. Together, they form a map of an artist's life: nonlinear, experimental, experiential, and deeply rooted in the tactile world.*

Hey, Cornell and IC students!



What could be better than Dinner and a Show? Our First Friday Dinners return this week at 6:00pm on Friday evening in the St. Luke basement fellowship hall. Come to enjoy a delicious meal with your friends and then pop upstairs to enjoy a local artist's artwork.

Do you like to cook?



Host one of our First Friday dinners! You can prepare anything from pasta to steak (well, maybe not steak but whatever your culinary prowess may desire). Reach out to Neil and Janelle if you're curious, interested, or down-right determined.



Email Janelle about helping with First Friday dinners!

GIVE A RIDE

As we grow our IC Campus Ministry, we are in need of folks willing to pick up students from the South Hill Campus for worship on Sundays. Please contact Pr. Jason if you are interested.



Email Pastor Jason if you'd like to give IC students a ride.



Supporting Immigrants in Our Community: Why Do They Come and How Do They Contribute?

Join us after worship on October 4th for a Forum@ St. Luke sponsored by the Outreach and Social Ministry Committee. Our guest speaker, Mary Jo Dudley, Director of Migrant Advocacy and Support (MAS) will lead a discussion about immigrants in our community, what motivates them to migrate, what roles they play in our communities, and how they contribute to the NYS and U.S. economy. She will also provide an overview of the current immigration enforcement environment in our region as well as how families are preparing to prevent

family separation and how students and community members can provide support for immigrants in the region.

Mary Jo Dudley is the Director of Migrant Advocacy and Support (MAS) and former Director of the Cornell Farmworker Program and has partnered and built deep trust with farmworkers throughout the past 20 years. She has been widely published in local, national, and international media and is the recipient of numerous local and national awards, including the Obama White House Champions of Change Award and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation award. She currently serves as the Chair of the National Advisory Council on Migrant Health.

Kidney
Disease
Screening &
Awareness
Program

KIDNEY HEALTH SCREENING

FREE access to a health **screening** and
professional medical consult by a
licensed physician!

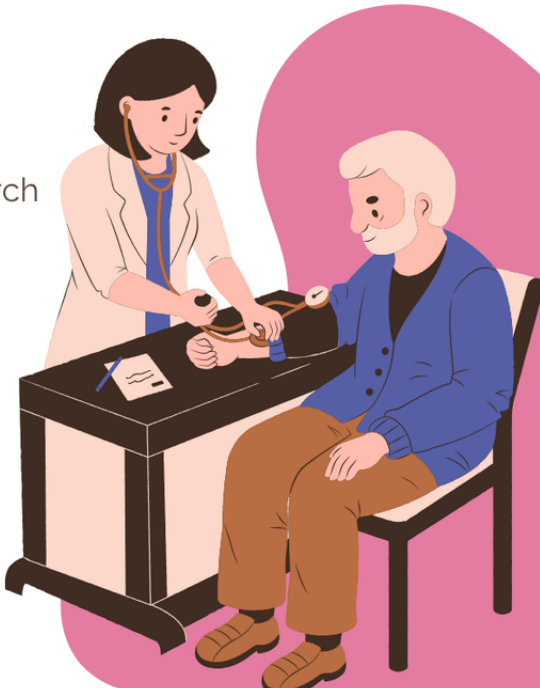
SCREENING INFO

- October 4th, 2026
- 10 am - 2 pm
- St. Luke Lutheran Church
109 Oak Ave
Ithaca, NY, 14850

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!

@cornellkdsap

cornellkdsap.weebly.com



**Next Weekend!!! The Celebration of Pastor Jason's
Ordination Anniversary will commence with**

several fun events.



Celebrate Rev. Dr. Jason Churchill's 10th Ordination Anniversary with us!

*Join us for one or all of
the following events:*

*Contact Kimberly to reserve your
wine tasting ticket or if you have
any questions:
communications@stlukeithaca.org
stlukeithaca.org*

Saturday, October 10 at 11:30am

- Wine tasting at Thirsty Owl Winery.
- Tickets available, \$10 each

Saturday, October 10, 2-4pm

- Open House at Hopshire in Freeville.
- Free and open to all ages!

Sunday, October 11th, 11:30am

- Brunch after worship
- St. Luke Fellowship Hall

We are still looking for more folks to sign up to bring food to the Brunch following worship on October 11th. You can find sign-up sheets in the Narthex this Sunday, or reach out to Kimberly to let her know what you'd like to bring.

Email Kim about Brunch

Reserve a wine tasting ticket



Original Folk and Americana with *The Wax Matches*

Jenny Stockdale, Cass Barbour, and Jessica Caporizzo

October 18 at 4pm



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Purchase items for backpacks or donate
towards the Social Ministry fund.

THROUGH SEPTEMBER



The Social Ministry and Outreach Committee invites you to partner with us as we provide School Backpacks for students in need throughout the world. Our goal is 50 draw string backpacks full of supplies.

Each bag needs the following:

- FOUR 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 1/2"; no loose leaf paper
- ONE ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- ONE pencil sharpener
- ONE pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- FIVE unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers;
- FIVE black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink);
- ONE box of 16 or 24 crayons

- ONE 2 1/2" eraser

How can you help?

You can either purchase the items and put them in the donation box in the narthex OR you can donate money and let us do the shopping. Please write "Social Ministry" in the memo line on your check or on Tithely. We will have a "packing party" after church at the end of September.

Donate to Social Ministry for Backpack Supplies

Feeding our Hungry Neighbors



RED WAGON for the Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard for October: White rice, instant potatoes, canned beans (especially black beans and garbanzo beans).

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

We Pray Together for...

...Anne, Deborah, Andy, Kathy, Keith, Louise, Angela, and Erik, and for the family of Bob Sprole, especially Bob, Lila, and Michelle.

We pray for all who are victims of violence, exploitation, and fear. We hold the Cornell community in prayer as it continues to navigate the horrific news of sexual and gender-based violence. May those who have experienced violence be heard, believed, supported, and surrounded by care; and may we have the courage to confront the systems and cultures that

allow violence and abuse to persist.

On Sundays, please feel free to write your prayer requests on the back of the gold colored Contact Cards and place it in the offering plate or the mailbox outside the main office door.

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

Readings for October 4

Job 12:7-10

Psalm 65:9-13

Revelation 22:1-5

Matthew 11:25-30

Calendar

Thursday, October 1

9:00 am Peace by Piece Quilters

Friday, October 2

10:30 am. Tea and Tarot at Cornell

5:00 pm. Ithaca Gallery Night at St. Luke featuring Carol LaBorie's work

6:00 pm. First Friday Dinner!

Saturday, October 3

3:00 pm. Cornell on Fire

Sunday, October 4

10:00 am Holy Communion

11:30 am. Forum@

Tuesday, October 6

12:15 pm. Bring Your Own Lunch Bible Study

6:30 pm. Mostly Motown Rehearsal

Wednesday, October 7

10:00 am. Staff Meeting

1:00 pm. Collegetown Community Collective

5:30pm. Building Open for Study/Co-Work

St. Luke Office is generally open weekdays from 9 am-12pm.

*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!*

Website

Give

Campus Min.
Store

Calendar



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

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

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Our mailing address is:
St. Luke Lutheran Church, 109 Oak Ave Ithaca, NY 14850-4729 USA