



## ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH KATONAH, NY

St. Luke's is a vibrant, diverse and welcoming parish located in the historic village of Katonah, NY, one hour north of New York City via car or the Metro-North train station just down the street.

Though relatively small in number, ours is an enthusiastic parish, and we have a large impact on the lives of our members and the communities we serve.

**OUR MISSION** is to restore all persons to unity with God and provide spiritual nourishment and growth, and to encourage ministries of worship, charity, evangelism, fellowship, outreach and pastoral care. Our collective soul and individual hearts are open to whomever comes through our doors.

### ST. LUKE'S HISTORY

Episcopalians organized in Katonah in 1855 as St. Mark's Episcopal Church, under the pastoral care of St. Matthew's-Bedford. The congregation was disbanded in 1887, but in the following year, John Jay II – the grandson of the first U.S. Supreme Court Justice – made a codicil to his will leaving \$500 for the erection of an Episcopal Church in Katonah.

Designed by the acclaimed Church architect Hobart B. Upjohn, St. Luke's is an English Tudor Revival stone and half-timbered structure with a copper spire and slate roof. It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.



## **MEMBERS AND LEADERS**

St. Luke's congregation is comprised of 25 active households, with an average of 20 to 25 parishioners attending Sunday services. St. Luke's also employs a music director, the noted choral director Harold Rosenbaum, and a part-time administrative assistant who works 20 hours a week. St. Luke's vestry meets monthly and currently has eight voting members, including two wardens.

## **WORSHIP**

St. Luke's members are highly focused on Sunday worship, around which fellowship and committee activities also are often scheduled. The parish offers a traditional Rite II service with music at 10:00 a.m. Worship services are conducted with strong lay support from Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors and the Altar Guild. Also, several parishioners are trained in providing Morning Prayer services on Sundays when we don't have a supply priest.

Outside of the regular weekly services, St. Luke's joins other local Christian churches in an outdoor Palm Sunday service, during which palms are blessed, distributed and carried in procession back to participating parishes. On the afternoon of the Sunday closest to the Feast of St. Francis, St. Luke's holds an open-air service for the Blessing of the Animals.



## **MUSIC**

Acclaimed choral director Harold Rosenbaum has been St. Luke's music director since 2005 and leads St. Luke's choir. He is a Professor Emeritus from The University at Buffalo and has also taught at Juilliard, Adelphi and Queens College — from where he received an honorary doctorate. Rosenbaum is a world-renowned choral conductor, author and lecturer and has been a church organist for over 50 years.



## FORMATION AND ADULT EDUCATION

St. Luke's offers weekly Bible study sessions, hosted by parishioners, on Monday afternoons. There is also significant involvement among parishioners in College for Congregational Development initiatives and courses presented by the Diocese of New York.

## OUTREACH

St. Luke's is a founding member and/or key supporter of several vital service organizations in Northern Westchester County. These include:

- **A-Home** which rehabilitates and manages affordable housing for older adults, disabled individuals and single-parent families.
- **The Community Center of Northern Westchester** which provides local families with supplemental food, clothing, job training, literacy, computer instruction, social service assistance and school supplies.
- **The Emergency Shelter Partnership** which provides safe overnight shelter and meals to the local homeless during the winter months and is hosted by local houses of worship on a weekly rotating schedule.

## FELLOWSHIP AND HOSPITALITY

When asked to describe St. Luke's, one of the first words most people use is "welcoming." St. Luke's takes to heart the message, "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You," and that spirit pervades all that we do.

A lively coffee hour follows the 10 a.m. service each week, with families rotating hosting duties. On Mardi Gras, the Parish House is packed for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. St. Luke's members also gather for Lenten suppers and other activities.



## PASTORAL CARE

The Pastoral Care Committee keeps tabs on parishioners in need of special assistance and support. The committee maintains a roster of members available to visit parishioners at home or in the hospital, phone those sick at home, provide rides, shopping and food preparation, or other necessary assistance.



## **OTHER COMMITTEES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

St. Luke's could not operate without the dedicated commitment of parishioners, who serve on a wide range of additional committees. These include our Communications Committee, which maintains our website ([www.stlukeskatonah.org](http://www.stlukeskatonah.org)) and publicizes parish doings in the local press.

## **THE COMMUNITY SERVED BY ST. LUKE'S**

An hour north of New York City by car or commuter train, Katonah is one of three hamlets in the town of Bedford and is often described as having a "Norman Rockwell" feel, with its small shopping village and Victorian homes. St. Luke's is one of Katonah's five churches and is prominently situated at the southern tip of the village's main street.



St. Luke's also plays a key role in one of the most popular Katonah community events – the annual lighting of the town Christmas tree, a towering pine located on parish property. Large crowds gather for the ceremony, and St. Luke's parishioners prepare and serve over 50 gallons of hot chocolate and countless dozens of cookies to warm and cheer the festive audience.

St. Luke's also holds an annual Mother's Day plant sale that attracts customers from all around the area and raises an average of over \$10,000 for outreach efforts and the parish budget.



## **CHURCH AND PARISH HOUSE**

The grounds, church and parish house are located at the junction of Bedford Road and Katonah Avenue, at the southern entrance to the hamlet.

Our three-floor parish house is adjacent to the church. A renovated village home, it has a handicap-accessible main level and is used for the church office, parish meetings and dinners, formation classes and coffee hours. During the week, it is used by various organizations, including 12-step groups.

## RECTOR SEARCH

For the past five years, we have been served by a wonderful long-term supply priest and have been without a rector. We are excited to join the Church of the Good Shepherd in a search for a rector and are looking forward to the ways we can expand our ministry in Katonah with their help. We currently are seeking to call a warm, thoughtful and engaging rector to:

- Guide us as we seek to follow Christ's example and care for each other and the world around us;
- Invigorate us spiritually with dynamic and thoughtprovoking preaching;
- Lead worship services that deepen our connection with God through a greater understanding of Holy Scripture, the experience of the Eucharist, and the inspiration of music; and
- Build on St. Luke's core of values of inclusiveness and fellowship.



A recent parish survey found that the pastoral specialties of greatest importance to members are spiritual leadership, preaching, pastoral care, liturgical leadership and music.

When asked to elaborate on their hopes for a new rector, parishioners said they are looking for someone who, among other things, is:

- "A warm, caring and kind person who loves to be with people and help people";
- "I am hopeful that the sharing of a rector...will spark more interest in our church";
- "Someone who is comfortable engaging the local community...someone who can be the face of St. Luke's in Katonah"; and
- "A mature person (not necessarily measured in one's age) who is welcoming to strangers, i.e. the occasional visitor to St. Luke's, and likes working with people of different viewpoints."

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

Like many Episcopal parishes, St. Luke’s has experienced a decline in membership during the post-Covid era, as well as a corresponding decrease in pledges. A copy of St. Luke’s 2025 financial statements will be made available upon request.

**ST. LUKE’S NUMBERS AT A GLANCE**

	2023	2024	2025
Parishioners	50	45	40
Average Sunday attendance	24	23	23
Pledge units	22	22	21
Total income	\$103,901	\$105,573	\$110,392*
Total expenses	\$128,947	\$143,559	\$136,703*

\* - estimated

St. Luke's has been in the fortunate position of having investment income from endowments sufficient to cover its operating shortfall and sustain ongoing efforts to maintain and improve its historic church and grounds.

St. Luke’s is hopeful that its upcoming collaboration with Church of the Good Shepherd and the leadership and energy of a new rector will together drive a turnaround in membership, which — along with continued increases in giving — can stabilize the parish’s financial position and strengthen its mission of nourishing the spiritual life of our parishioners and having a positive effect on the broader community.

**ST LUKE'S BUDGET**

	Budget 2025	Actual 2024
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Plate Pledge & Gifts	51,280	62,226
Other	59,112	43,347
Total Revenue	110,392	105,573
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Personnel	78,295	76,391
Parish Operations	40,780	40,469
Office	4,300	8,549
Program	4,480	9,606
Other	8,848	8,544
Total Expenses	136,703	143,559
Net Operating Revenue/Deficit	(26,311)	(37,986)