



Office for
Transition
Ministry

Ministry Portfolio

Full Portfolio (last updated Aug 4, 2025)

St. Luke's Church, Katonah, New York

68 Bedford Road, Katonah, NY 10536, United States

Contact:

Priest-in-Charge Shared Ministry

transitions@dioceseny.org

Weekly Average Sunday
Attendance (ASA)

23

Number of Weekend
Worship Services

1

Number of Weekday
Worship Services

Number of Other per Month
Worship Services

Current Annual
Compensation

Cash Stipend

Housing / Rectory Detail

Utilities

SECA reimbursement

Compensation Available for
New Position

Housing Available for

Pension Plan

**We're in compliance with
CPF requirements.**

Healthcare Options

Full family

Dental

Yes

Housing Equity Allowance in
budget

Annual Equity Amount

Vacation Weeks

**One month, including 5
Sundays (standard)**

Vacation Weeks Details

Continuing Education Weeks

2 (standard)

Continuing Education Weeks
Details

Continuing Education
Funding in budget

\$501-\$1000/year

Sabbatical Provision

Yes

Travel/Auto Account

Yes

Other Professional Account

Compensation & benefits negotiable from diocesan minimums.

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Describe a moment in your worshipping community's recent ministry which you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.

For several years St. Luke's and other Katonah houses of worship participated in a community Palm Sunday service. With a changing community socio-economic demographic, the service was discontinued. To help restore a sense of community and the important role faith and religion play in our lives, St. Luke's led the effort to restore the service. Net result - good community turnout. Also Katonah houses of worship are increasingly collaborating on other religious and community events.

How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?

In recent years ASA, number of parishioners, and pledge income have declined. We have experienced recurring deficits and fewer hands to carry out running the church. Over the last year a Diocesan Facilitator has led us on a collaboration journey with a nearby parish. The two parishes have recently agreed to commence the search for a shared priest who will serve both parishes.

Please provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community.

Warm and caring. Deeply spiritual. Thought-provoking preaching. Community engagement. Support both parishes.

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Describe your liturgical style and practice for all types of worship services provided by your community.

For several years St. Luke's has celebrated communion (Rite 2 in English) on Sunday with music and a choir. Following the departure of our long term Interim Priest in December 2024, we now do Morning Prayer the first Sunday of each month (led by parishioners). On the remaining Sundays of each month, Supply Priests celebrate Communion.

How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

Ushers greet guests and newcomers, introduce them to other parishioners, invite them to coffee hour, provide them with brochures, and ask them to complete an information card for follow up.

As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being?

We celebrate Morning Prayer the first Sunday of each month led by parishioners. On remaining Sundays in the month, Supply Priests celebrate Communion. We have Vestry Pastoral Care Co-chairs, a prayer chain, and a ride program to and from church for those in need. For hospital visits and other emergencies, a priest from a nearby parish is available.

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How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?

See response to question below (reference the Emergency Shelter Program).

Describe your worshipping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region.

Several years ago St. Luke's collaborated with other Katonah houses of worship and led the community to create the Northern Westchester Community Center - a facility which provides food, clothing, and other support services primarily to the Latin community and others economically challenged. Three St. Luke's parishioners founded A-Home - an organization which develops, owns, and manages safe affordable permanent housing. St. Luke's participates in the Emergency Shelter Program, a coalition of Northern Westchester churches and other organizations providing food and shelter during the Winter months to the homeless. St. Luke's co-hosts the annual Katonah community Christmas tree lighting (we have the tallest Christmas tree in Westchester County on our church grounds). Our parish has provided scholarships for Divinity School students in Tanzania and helped fund planting of cashew trees, driver of Tanzania economy. For 30 years on Mothers' Day weekend St. Luke's holds "Plant Patch", an annual plant sale for the community (the principal fund raiser for our outreach programs). On Easter Sunday we host a community Easter Egg Hunt. In October we host a community "Blessing of the Animals."

Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

Father Patrick Ward, our recent Interim Rector, initiated the Tanzania outreach mentioned in response to question above. With his retirement in December 2024, we have discontinued this ministry.

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What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshipping community?

Early Fall we initiate the annual pledge campaign. It includes a letter from the Wardens to parishioners, parishioner testimonials at Sunday services, and frequent updates to the parish re St. Luke's finances and other matters. Communication is paramount to continuing parishioner support.

What is your worshipping community's experience of conflict? And how have you addressed it?

Due to declining membership and recurring deficits in the late 1970's, St. Luke's parted with the Rector. Subsequently, with a new priest St. Luke's rebounded. Membership increased and financial viability was restored. Since the early 2000s, we have not had a full time Rector. For the last 20 years, we have worshipped with Supply Priests and Interim Rectors. Due to differences in the Priest role and responsibilities between the Interim Rector and the congregation, ten years ago St. Luke's parted with the Interim Rector. There was divided opinion among the congregation at that time. With the arrival of a new Interim Rector in early 2017, conflict subsided.

What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?

In recent years the Vestry and congregation decided it was imperative to assess options for St. Luke's future. We conducted a parish survey. Subsequently, we held a feedback session with Parishioners. Consensus was St. Luke's should continue its dual mission of bringing Christ into our everyday lives and serving the community. Several useful ideas and initiatives emerged from the survey and feedback session, including transforming the Parish House lawn and playground into community playground, a community Moms/Pops/Tots weekday morning program, a Sunday afternoon Family/Children's service, raising St. Luke's profile throughout Northern Westchester through more active participation in the Katonah Chamber of Commerce, publicizing St. Luke's events in the Chamber's weekly email to the community and other social media, and interaction with other Katonah houses of worship. The Vestry also established a Parish Development Vestry Chair and became more proactive in communicating with parishioners. St. Luke's reached out to the Diocese for guidance which has led to the collaboration journey we are undertaking with Good Shepherd-Granite Springs. Parishioners fully support these initiatives.



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Prior Incumbents

| Name | Position Title | Date Begun | Date Ended |
|-----------------------|----------------|------------|------------|
| The Rev. Patrick Ward | Interim | 2019-05 | 2024-01 |

| Name | Position Title | Date Begun | Date Ended |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|
| The Rev. Kristina Lewis-Theerman | Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | 2015-12 | |

| Name | Position Title | Date Begun | Date Ended |
|-------------------------|----------------|------------|------------|
| The Rev. Robert Lamborn | Interim | 2013-09 | 2014-09 |

As of now, neither do we have students for a Sunday school program nor a teacher.

| Church School | Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School | Number of Students for Children School |
|---------------|--|--|
|---------------|--|--|

| Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School | Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School | Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School | Number of Students for Adults School |
|---|---|--|--------------------------------------|
|---|---|--|--------------------------------------|

| Day School | Number of Students for Day School | Number of Teachers for Day School | Number of Total Staff for Day School |
|------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
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Contact:
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Worshipping Community Web site: <https://stlukeskatonah.org>

Media Links:

Online References:

Languages Significantly Represented:

English

Provide Worship or Classes in:

English

References

Bishop:

Diocesan Transition Minister

Current Warden/Board Chair

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader