

THE EPISTLE

St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church

35 North Malin Road

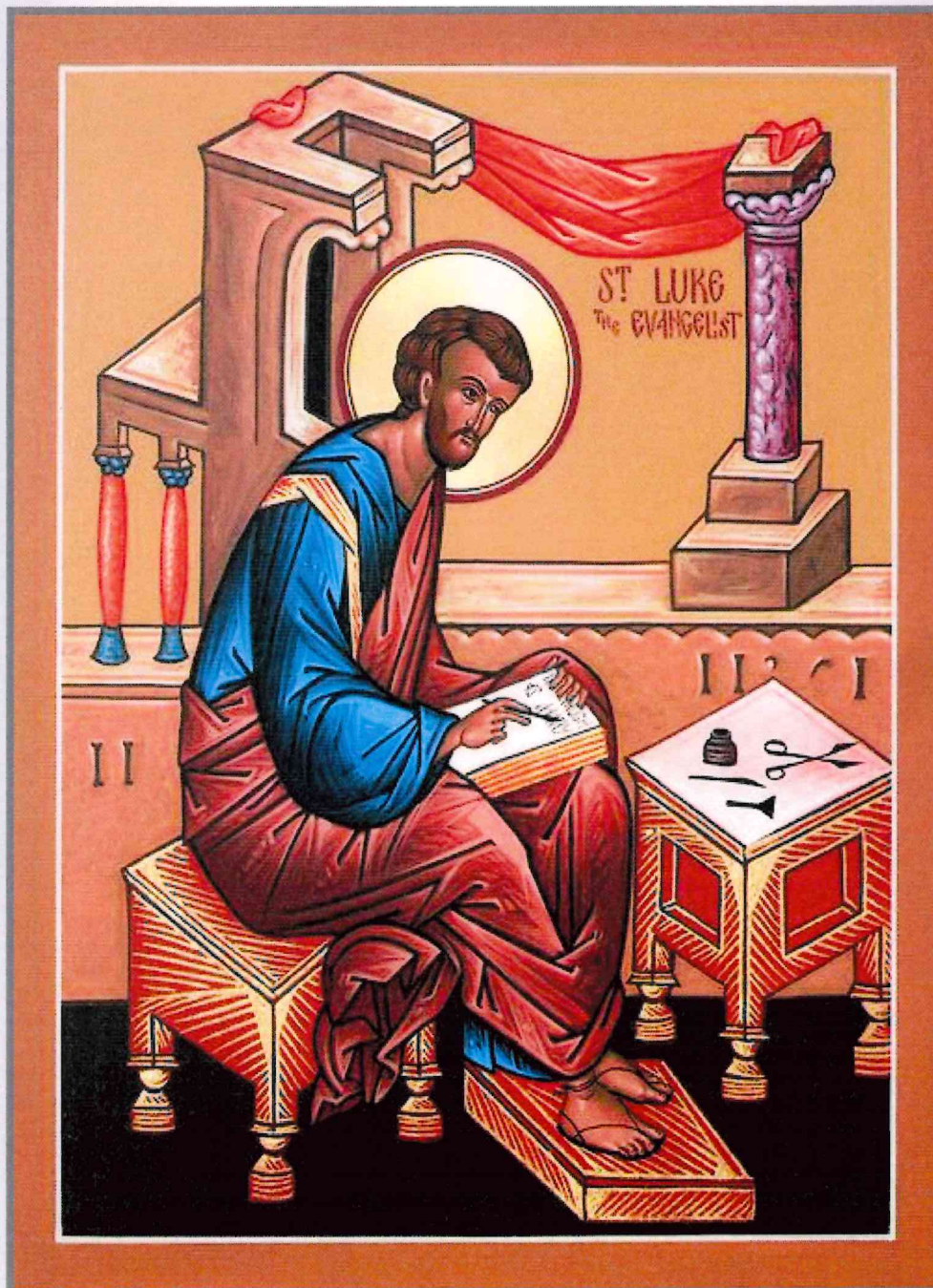
Broomall, PA 19008

Rev. Father Christ Kontos, Protopresbyter

(610) 353-1592

www.st-luke.org

SEPTEMBER 2026



SEPTEMBER PASTORAL MESSAGE

Our Greek Affair – A Parish Family Effort

Friends, preparations for our 49th Annual Greek Affair are well underway, and once again our parish is coming alive with the familiar sights, sounds, and aromas of baking, cooking, planning, and preparation. Behind it all are countless hours offered by members of our St. Luke family.

Last month, I reflected upon how different this year's Greek Affair will feel without our beloved John Solomon. His presence will be deeply missed. Perhaps one of the greatest tributes we can offer him is not simply to remember all that he gave, but to step forward ourselves and continue what he helped build. For nearly five decades, this ministry has been passed from one generation of faithful hands to another. This year, his hands need to be ours. May John's memory be eternal.

The Greek Affair is not simply an event that our parish hosts; it is something our parish family creates together. It is an important fundraiser, but it is also fellowship, stewardship, hospitality, and an opportunity to work side by side with one another in service to our parish. Our tireless Greek Affair Chair, Alexi Sioutis, and his dedicated team and Philoptochos have been diligently coordinating the many details that make this ministry possible. Their love and sacrifice are a beautiful witness to the spirit of our parish family.

Now we need the rest of our St. Luke family to join them. I am asking every parishioner and every household to consider how you can be part of this year's Greek Affair. Please do not wait until the weekend arrives and assume someone else has it covered. *Sign up early. Take a shift or three. Come to a preparation session. Bring your children or grandchildren and serve together as a family.* There truly is a place for everyone.

When our doors open and thousands of guests arrive, they will enjoy our food, music, dancing, and hospitality. But I hope they experience something even greater: a parish family serving together joyfully and reflecting the love of Christ in the way we welcome them.

Beloved, *we need you*. The success of our Greek Affair has always depended upon a parish family willing to roll up its sleeves and serve together. Please visit thegreekaffair.com to sign up and learn how you can help, or contact Alexi Sioutis at alexander.sioutis@gmail.com.

I look forward to seeing all of us working side by side as we make our 49th Annual Greek Affair another beautiful expression of the faith, fellowship, and spirit of St. Luke.



Rev. Father Christ Kontos, Protopresbyter



PARISH LIFE

Weddings

Sean Walton & Alexia Krajewski were united in Holy Matrimony on July 12, 2026. **Christina Boyd** stood by their side as the sponsor and the witness was **Kenneth Bruno**. *May their married life together be blessed with spiritual joy always.*

Forty-Day Blessing

On August 16, 2026, Father Christ offered the Forty Day Blessing for **Nickolas Elijah Millas, III**. Congratulations to **Nickolas & Michelle Millas** as we anticipate the Baptism!

Baptisms & Chrismations

The son of **Samuel & Katherine Edwards** was baptized on July 12, 2026. His sponsor, **Robert Johnson**, baptized him with the name *James*. May Our Lord continue to bless you, **James Matthew Edwards**.

The son of **Constantine & Deborah Polites** was baptized on July 12, 2026. His sponsor, **Gerasimos Petratos**, baptized him with the name *Christopher*. May Our Lord continue to bless you, **Christopher Elias Polites**.

Deborah Polites was chrismated on July 12, 2026. Her sponsor, **Alexandra Perrot**, chrismated her with the name *Deborah*. May Our Lord continue to bless you.

The son of **Max & Grace Finkel** was baptized on August 1, 2026. His sponsor, **John Kamfonas**, baptized him with the name *Alexi*. May Our Lord continue to bless you, **Alexi Jackson Finkel**.

The son of **Steven & Georgia Fischer** was baptized on August 1, 2026. Her sponsor, **Jenna Fischer**, baptized her with the name *Efthalia*. May Our Lord continue to bless you, **Efthalia Lukia Fischer**.

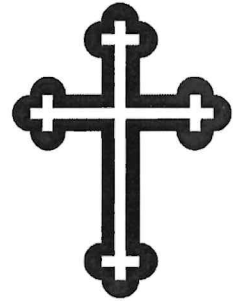
Funerals

Konstantinos Mavridis fell asleep in the Lord on July 11, 2026. His funeral service was held on July 17, 2026.

Fr. Andrew Eugenis fell asleep in the Lord on July 19, 2026. His funeral service was held on June 23, 2026.

We extend our condolences and prayers to their family. MAY THEIR MEMORY BE ETERNAL.

September 2026 Ecclesiastical Calendar



Tuesday, September 1st

Ecclesiastical New Year

Symeon the Stylite

8:50am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Sunday, September 6th

14th Sunday of Matthew

Miracle at Colassai; Martyr Calodote

8:50am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Tuesday September 8th

Nativity of the Theotokos

Sophronios, Bishop of Iberia

8:50am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Sunday, September 13th

Sunday Before Holy Cross

Memorial of founding Holy Resurrection of Christ Church

8:50am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Monday, September 14th

The Elevation of the Cross

8:50am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, September 16th

St. Euphemia the Great Martyr

8:50am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Sunday, September 20th

Sunday After Holy Cross

Eustathios and family; Eustathios, Archbishop of Thessalonica

8:50am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Sunday, September 27th

1st Sunday of Luke

Kallistratos & his 49 Companions; Mark, Aristarchos & Zenon

8:50am Orthros and 10:00am Divine Liturgy

SEPTEMBER 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 10am Senior Men 7pm PC Zoom	2 7pm Boys Basketball	3 10am Senior Men 7pm Greek Dance	4 10am Senior Men	5
6	7  <i>CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED!!!</i>	8 10am Senior Men	9 9am Greek Affair Baking 7pm Boys Basketball	10 10am Senior Men 7pm Greek Dance 7:15pm Choir	11 10am Senior Men	12
13 <i>FESTIVAL OF MINISTRIES</i>	14 <i>GREEK AFFAIR PREPERATION</i>	15 10am Senior Men <i>GREEK AFFAIR PREPERATION</i>	16 <i>GREEK AFFAIR PREPERATION</i>	17 10am Senior Men <i>GREEK AFFAIR PREPERATION</i>	18 10am Senior Men 	19 
20 	21 <i>GREEK AFFAIR CLEAN-UP</i>	22 10am Senior Men <i>GREEK AFFAIR CLEAN-UP</i>	23 <i>GREEK AFFAIR CLEAN-UP</i>	24 10am Senior Men 7pm Greek Dance <i>GREEK AFFAIR CLEAN-UP</i>	25 10am Senior Men 6:30pm Philoptochos Welcome Back Potluck <i>GREEK AFFAIR CLEAN-UP</i>	26
27	28  <i>CC GYM FLOOR CLEANING (NO ENTRY)</i>	29  10am Senior Men <i>CC GYM FLOOR CLEANING (NO ENTRY)</i>	30  <i>CC GYM FLOOR CLEANING (NO ENTRY)</i>			

September 1st – Ecclesiastical New Year

September 1st is the first day of the Orthodox Ecclesiastical Year. It is called the beginning of the “indinction”. The word “indinction” is a Latin word meaning “impose”, to make somebody do something. It was first applied in imposing taxes in Egypt. The Roman Emperor Diocletian extended the system of taxing conquered people to the whole Roman Empire. The first official worldwide indinction originated with Emperor Constantine in 312AD when he saw a miraculous vision of the “sign of the cross” on the skies. The Church picked this day to begin its calendar year for various reasons:

Before the Julian calendar, the Romans began their year on September 1st.

According to Holy Tradition, it was on September 1st that our Blessed Lord first entered the Jewish Synagogue (Luke 4) to preach His mission to men. Jesus, quoted from the 61st chapter of the book of Isaiah: “The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord had anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek, he has sent me to bind up the openings of the prison to them that are bound. To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all that mourn.”

Tradition also tells us that it was during the month of September that the Hebrews finally entered the Promised Land.

It has always been accepted within the church community that the month of September was the time to gather all the fruits of the summer months and prepare for the beginning of the winter months ahead. At the start of the new year, hymnographers also prepared beautiful hymns to be chanted during church services. The hymns were offered to Almighty God so that we might receive His divine blessings throughout the coming year.

ECCLESIASTICAL NEW YEAR

The First Ecumenical Council decreed that the Church’s year should begin on September 1st. The month of September was, for the Jews, the beginning of the civil year (see Exodus 12:2), the month of the gathering of fruits and the bringing to God of sacrifices of thanksgiving. It was at the time of this feast that the Lord Jesus went into the synagogue in Nazareth, opened the Book of the Prophet Isaiah and read the words: ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me; because He hath anointed Me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent Me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance’ (Is. 61: 1-2; cf. Luke 4: 16-21). This month of September is also noted in the history of Christianity because it was during September that Constantine the Great was victorious over Maxentius, the enemy of the Christian faith, a victory followed by the granting of freedom of confession of the Christian faith throughout the whole Roman Empire. For a long time, the civil year in the Christian world was reckoned in the same way as the Church’s year, from September 1st, but it was later changed to January 1st, first in western Europe and then also in Russia in the time of Peter the Great.



HOSPITAL VISITATIONS

are Father Christ's priority.

If a loved one or family member is hospitalized,
please notify the Church Office at (610) 353-1592.

All hospitals do not notify parishes of hospitalized parishioners.

ST. LUKE PRAYER GROUP

There is nothing more powerful than the power of prayer. The Prayer Chain email list is up and running. This prayer chain allows us to communicate with anyone who wishes to be on it. Once a person in need comes to our attention, each member on that list will be contacted and asked to pray for the one in need.

Imagine someone suffering and 10, 50, 100, 200 or 500 people praying for them that same evening. Truly friends, there is nothing more powerful than prayer.



How do I register? Email Presbytera Michele at SaintLukePrayer@gmail.com

MEAL TRAIN MINISTRY INVITATION

In an ongoing effort to care for and support our St. Luke family, I am inviting parishioners to join a Meal Train ministry. This ministry provides meals to individuals and families in times of need, due to illness, recovery, or other difficult circumstances. Participants will receive occasional notifications by email or text with the opportunity to sign up to prepare or order a meal for delivery. To make the process simple and respectful, a cooler will be placed outside the home, allowing for easy, non-intrusive drop-off.

If you feel called to offer this small act of love and service, I welcome you to join us. Please see Presvytera Michele or email her at micheleakontos@gmail.com to be added to the list. Thank you for your consideration and for helping us live out our faith through care for one another. Sincere gratitude to those who have already helped, God bless your kindness and care.



REGISTER YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

Register your email address online at st-luke.org/register-contact to receive timely emails from Fr. Christ on Church and Parish Life. You can also use your QR/Barcode scanner from your mobile device by scanning the code below.



METROPOLIS OF
NEW JERSEY

HIS EMINENCE
ARCHBISHOP ELPIDOPHOROS
OF AMERICA
AND THE METROPOLIS OF NEW JERSEY
COUNCIL

Cordially invite you to a
Farewell Banquet

Honoring

the ministry of the newly elected
Archbishop Apostolos of Canada

SEPTEMBER 8, 2026 • 5:30 PM



The Venetian
546 River Dr.
Garfield, NJ 07026

Tickets:\$195

Tickets Available
only on
[GiveButter](#)



FESTIVAL OF MINISTRIES

When: Sunday September 13, 2026 after divine liturgy

Where: Community Center

It is an exciting time for us at St Luke as we are ramping up our activities for the Fall. September 13th is Registration Sunday for all Youth and Adult Ministries and the beginning of Sunday School.

Please join us at the conclusion of liturgy for the 5th Annual **St Luke Festival of Ministries Pizza Party**.

Groups/Committees represented:

YOUTH MINISTRIES

Little Angels Playgroup

Basketball

Greek School

JOY/HOPE

Dance Troup

Altar Boys

GOYA

Sunday School

ADULT MINISTRIES

Parish Council

Choir

Stewardship

Philoptochos

Diakonia

Book Club

For Those In Need (FTIN)

Senior Men's Group

Bible Study/Elements of

Orthodoxy

Book Club

Golf Classic

Prayer Group

Greek Affair

Young Adult League (YAL)

SUMMER COFFEE HOUR

Another summer seems to have passed too fast! But we don't want to go into the next season without expressing our gratitude to the persons who made the fellowship hour possible and enjoyable. The driving force behind the summer Sundays was Lynn Filis aided by Alexandra Perrot. Michael Vlahos was our indispensable coffee advisor who arrived loaded with pastries. Some parishioners even brought homemade cookies and cakes. Special thanks to all.

Many thanks to: Maria Athineos, Elena Aughey, Sue Clark, Renee Contos, Carol Crouse, Stella Economides, Deeta Fiorentino, Helen Kopitas, Sandie Liacouras, Diane Nayman, Phyllis Roebas, Pamela Smith and Georgia Vlahos.

With good wishes for a happy and healthy upcoming season,
Dee Karras

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

We hope everyone had a wonderful summer and is ready for a busy and exciting fall.

September is a great time to reconnect with our parish community, and there are lots of ways to get involved and become true stewards of the church. One of the biggest opportunities of the year is the **The Greek Affair**. Whether you volunteer, bring your family and friends, help spread the word, or simply come out and enjoy the weekend, your participation makes a difference! Volunteers are needed to make the event a success. Becoming involved in our community helps to enrich your experience and forges deeper relationships with fellow parishioners.

Another great way to stay connected is through our **online parish directory**. If you haven't already, please take a few minutes to add your name and contact information. The directory helps us get to know one another, stay connected, and strengthen our community beyond Sunday mornings.

Thank you for your continued stewardship and support of St. Luke's. We truly appreciate everything you do to help make our parish a strong and connected community.

We look forward to seeing everyone this fall!

Warm Regards,
Niki Thompson
Stewardship Chair

Stewardship Number Through July 31, 2026

Stewardship Campaign Progress for 2026 Stewardship

- \$630,000.00 goal
- \$510,510.00 pledged
- **\$119,490.00 pledges needed**
- \$422,661.62 received
- **Total Pledges: 402**

Respectfully submitted,
B. Michael Cook - Stewardship Administrator



Join Our New Online Church Directory

We are excited to introduce our long-awaited **Online Directory through Realm** - a wonderful way for our parish family to stay connected and grow closer together. By choosing to participate, you'll be helping us put **names to faces** and strengthen the sense of community within our church. You will also have the option to **upload a photo of yourself or your family**, making it even easier for everyone to get to know one another.

How the Directory Works

The directory is permission-based, meaning:

- Only those who choose to share their information will appear
- You control exactly what details are visible (phone, email, address, etc.)
- Your privacy is always respected

As more parishioners opt in, the directory will continue to grow into a valuable resource for our Church community.

How to Participate

Joining the directory is simple:

- Log in to your Realm account (via the website or Realm Connect app) www.onrealm.org/stluke
- Click on your name or profile icon and select **"My Profile"**
- Choose **"Edit Profile"** and review your information
- Adjust your **privacy settings** to share the details you'd like included
- Upload a photo if you wish
- Click **Save** (if you have another family member attached to your profile, you will want to follow the same steps for that individual)

How to Access the Directory

- Log into your Realm account via the website or Realm Connect app
- From the main menu, select **"Directory"**
- Browse and search for fellow parishioners who have chosen to be listed

We're Here to Help

If you're unsure how to log in or update your profile, simply contact the Stewardship Committee at stlukegiving@gmail.com - we're happy to assist you! Let's come together to build a stronger, more connected parish community!

St Luke Greek Orthodox Church

Diakonia Schedule September-November 2026

Date	On Duty	On Duty
September 6	Maria Carafides	Martha DiCamillo
September 13	Maria Scavitto	Soula Arcidiacono
September 20	Stephanie Carroll	Barbara Papageorge
September 27	Ellena Vaganos	Marta Laynas
October 4	Anna Andreadis	Tom Trantas
October 11	Gus Pappas	Sonya Pappas
October 18	Linda Lemperes	Anna Hadgis
October 25	Kathy Fisfis	Angelina Scavitto
November 1	Stephanie Carroll	Sue Clark
November 8	Maria Carafides	Diane Sioutis
November 15	Vasie Marinakos	Anna Hadgis
November 22	Alexis Limberakis	Sue Clark
November 29	Joyce Vlassopoulos	Martha DiCamillo

Contact Tom Trantas at tomisgreek@yahoo.com or 610.203.1132

DUTIES

- On Sundays, arrive by 9:45 am
- Greet parishioners as they arrive
- Respond to parishioners' questions
- Stock candles and red glass candles
- Pass out Sunday bulletins
- Extinguish burning candles that are low
- Pass trays (coordinate location with Parish Council)
- Diakonia duties are finished after trays are passed
- If you cannot serve on your scheduled day, please switch with another member (no need to inform me)



ST. LUKE SENIOR CHOIR

New members welcomed! All who enjoy singing are invited to join the St. Luke Senior Choir. For more information about joining the St. Luke Senior Choir, please contact choir director, Dena Papadopoulos at dena80papa@gmail.com

SUNDAY YOUTH CHOIR

If your children enjoy singing, please encourage them to participate in the Sunday Youth Choir. Students in grades 5 through 12 are welcome to join the Sunday Youth Choir. Participating in the Sunday Youth Choir is a meaningful way to learn our liturgical music.

On Sunday mornings, Youth Choir reports directly to the choir loft at 10:00 AM and joins the Senior Choir to participate in the singing of the Divine Liturgy. Then, before the start of the children's sermon, Youth Choir joins the Sunday School, seated in church. They continue to Holy Communion and attend Sunday School classes. Sunday Youth Choir members do not miss Sunday School. There are no rehearsals for Sunday Youth Choir.

Students in grades 5 through 12 are welcome to join Sunday Youth Choir. Altar boys may also participate in Sunday Youth Choir on the Sundays they are not serving in the altar.

If you have any questions about Sunday Youth Choir please contact St. Luke Choir Director Dena Papadopoulos at dena80papa@gmail.com

Please look for the Senior and Youth Choir registration table at the Festival of Ministries on September 13th.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome to the 2026-2027 Sunday School year! Here is the Sunday School Schedule for September 2026:

September 13: Classes Begin, Agiasmos for the new school year; *Festival of Ministries*/Registration Sunday for all youth activities

September 20: No classes, Greek Affair

September 27: Worship and Classes, Sunday School Picture, Teacher Meeting

The calendar for the entire 2026 -2027 Sunday School year is posted on our website (<https://www.ss.st-luke.org>) and will also be emailed to all families who register.

We are very excited to begin the year and welcome our students to the first Sunday of classes on September 13, 2026. After Holy Communion, students of all grades should go to the Education Building and join the class that matches the grade they attend at their regular school. Please see the chart below:

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS 2026-2027

Grade Level	Teachers	Room Number	Floor Level
3-year-olds	Lisa Palmieri and Kathy Zarvalos	Room 103	First Floor
Pre-K	Faithe Kalisperis and Marinela Tsapournas	Room 101	First Floor
11th and 12th Grade	Danny Milinkovic and Evan Palmieri	Room 100	First Floor
Kindergarten	Helen Kopitas and Marilena Ristas	Room 201	Second Floor
1st Grade	Phoebe Harris and Thomas Ristas	Room 205	Second Floor
2nd Grade	Evie Karros and Eleni Kornblatt	Room 203	Second Floor
3rd Grade	Jen Kyriakodis and Sophia Tsakiris	Room 202	Second Floor
4th Grade	Marina Poole	Room 200	Second Floor
5th/6th Grade	Elene Mironides, Fotini Kathopoulos, Christian O'Donnell and Corina Schwarz	Room 204	Second Floor
7th Grade and 8th	Art Karros, George Kevgas, and Costa Samios	Room 206	Second Floor
9th Grade and 10th	Heidi Galanos and Peter Pavlis	Room 209	Second Floor

OPEN HOUSE

Please mark your calendars! This year's Sunday School Open House will be held on Sunday, October 25, 2026, immediately following Holy Communion. As we celebrate and recognize the important role grandparents play in nurturing and passing on the Orthodox faith to future generations, we warmly invite all parents and grandparents to visit our Sunday School classrooms with their children. Open House is a wonderful opportunity for our teachers to connect with families, introduce the new national Sunday School curriculum for each grade level, share what students will learn throughout the year, and establish the best ways to maintain meaningful communication between teachers, students, and families. We look forward to welcoming our families into the classrooms and beginning another year of learning, worshipping, and growing together in Christ!

REGISTRATION

Please visit the Sunday School table at the Festival of Ministries on September 13, 2026, OR, click on the following link: <https://www.ss.st-luke.org/registration>; OR QR code.



Please be sure to indicate on the registration form the name(s) of those who are permitted to pick up your child/children from Sunday School if you are not able to do so. Teachers will not dismiss a child to someone unknown to them unless you have given permission. This policy is an important facet of our Youth Safety program, which we take very seriously.

DIVINE LITURGY READERS

Please encourage your children to volunteer to read the Epistle or the Communion Prayer during Divine Liturgy. We will send you the reading(s) ahead of time so that your child can practice and become comfortable with the texts beforehand.

PHILANTHROPIC AND SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Our children's religious education is rooted in worship, prayer, and service to others. Throughout the year, Sunday School families will have opportunities to put their faith into action by serving those in need. This summer, through the generosity of our Saint Luke community, our FOCUS Backpack Fundraiser provided nearly 1,000 backpacks to local children. This year, Sunday School will also coordinate monthly food donations, meal preparation, and delivery for individuals experiencing homelessness through FOCUS Philadelphia. Through these ministries, we hope our children learn that serving others is an essential part of living our Orthodox faith and serving Christ Himself.

For more information about Open House, registration, reading in church, service opportunities, or any other programs/activities, please contact Jane Kelly, Panayota Kevgas, and Sophia Milinkovic at stlukesundayschool@gmail.com.

JOY/HOPE

Junior Orthodox Youth • Hellenic Orthodox Primary Education
Kindergarten- 6th grade

Are you looking for a way to connect your children with their faith, make new friends, and grow in the love of Christ? If so, find us at the Festival of Ministries on Sunday, September 13th. We're excited for a new year of learning, laughter, and love in Christ- and we'd love for your family to be part of it!

Save the following dates:

Festival of Ministries: 9/13

Friday with Father: Dates TBD for Sept./Oct.

Fall Hayride: Date *tentatively* 10/17, Location TBD

Friendsgiving: 11/10 after Greek School, 7pm

Kalanta: 12/6, from 3-8pm with practice dates to follow

For more information, please contact Alexa Angelakos or Kally Sioutis at stlukejoyhope@gmail.com.

"Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven"



Saint Luke Greek Folk Dance Groups

Our Greek Folk Dance Groups are looking forward to a new year and we're excited to welcome new members! No previous dance experience is necessary!

Children entering Second Grade through Sixth Grade can join **Ellinakia**
Youth entering Seventh Grade through Twelfth Grade can join **Olympians**

Rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings at Saint Luke. Our first practice of the new dance season with new members is scheduled for Thursday, October 8th. We hope you'll join us!



Access our online registration form at Greek Dance Registration 2026-27 or use the QR code

Please contact Cynthia Costanzo at ckarakantas@gmail.com with any questions.

Don't forget to watch our current Ellinakia and Olympian Dancers at this year's **Greek Affair September 18th and 19th!**



St. Luke Greek Language School



As summer comes to an end, another incredible school year is about to start at St. Luke Greek School. Administrators and teachers have been working hard in preparation for the year. We look forward to an exciting and successful year full of Greek language, culture, and tradition for students, parents, and teachers alike!

Ayiasmos and the first day of the 2026-2027 school year is on Tuesday, October 6th. St. Luke Greek School operates every Tuesday from 5:00-7:00pm.

If you would like to register your child/children, please scan the QR code below and fill out the Google Form no later than September 18th.

We are also thrilled to announce that due to a successful adult class operating the last two years, there will be an adult class this year as well. Please scan the QR code below to register and fill out the Google Form no later than September 18th.

Child Registration Form



Adult Registration Form



If you have any questions, feel free to contact our administrator Angelique Demetris at angeliquedemetris@gmail.com. For more information visit St. Luke Greek School website www.stlukegreekschool.com.

Καλή Χρονιά!
Have a great school year!

"I am indebted to my father for living, but to my teacher for living well."
— **Alexander the Great** (taught by philosopher Aristotle)

ARCHDIOCESE AND DISTRICT

YAL Conference

COLUMBUS DAY
WEEKEND

NEW YORK CITY

OCTOBER 9-12, 2026

YOUNG ADULTS
AGES 18-35

REGISTRATION
OPENS
JULY 13, 2026



For Those in Need...

you may ask, "What are we doing lately?"

SEPTEMBER, 2026 *Epistle*

For Those In Need (FTIN) helps in St. Luke's outreach to the community, offering basic necessities such as food, school supplies, clothing, shelter, etc. to those in our local area who lack them. FTIN also works with other parish groups to provide discretionary assistance to fellow parishioners and others in need.

On **August 4th** FTIN made its bi-monthly delivery to re-stock the Salvation Army's food pantry specifically oriented towards their senior and homeless populations.

During our August Cook, FTIN's volunteer Chefs prepared some 165 evening meals for our partners at The Life Center (TLC) and the Salvation Army.

No Cook is scheduled for September; instead, FTIN will be treating our recipients to foods from The Greek Affair, compliments of and with thanks to The Greek Affair Committee. Our **October Cook** is scheduled for Monday, **October 12th**.

And FTIN was privileged to join in supporting the Sunday School's FOCUS Back to School Backpack campaign.

Supporting FTIN – How can I help?

It is your support that is enabling FTIN to make a difference by expanding its outreach during these times of food insecurity and hunger affecting the lives of so many. ***Thank you . . .*** for your generosity which has continued uninterrupted now over so many years!

We welcome your Stewardship whether offered as helping hands or in financial support. No donation is too small, and your contributions to FTIN remain a meaningful gift "for those who have everything" or in memory of a beloved family member or friend. Checks (payable to "For Those In Need") may be mailed to the parish office.

To learn more about FTIN, how you can volunteer or make a donation, please contact:

Alan Pcsolyar at: apcsolyar@comcast.net or 610-457-6033

PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY NEWS

SAVE THE DATE

Ladies Philoptochos Table at the Festival of Ministries - Sunday, September 13, 2026
Sisters and Spritzers Welcome Back Potluck - Friday, September 25, 2026
Trip to Woodbury Outlets - Saturday, October 3, 2026
Sharing Excess - Saturday, October 10, 2026
October General Assembly Meeting - Sunday, October 11, 2026
St. Luke Name Day Vespers & Lunch - Saturday, October 17 & Sunday, October 18
'At the Chef's Table' Cooking Class - Saturday, October 24, 2026
Bag Bingo - Friday, November 6, 2026
Boutiques & Greek Treats - Saturday, December 5 - Sunday, December 6, 2026
Fall Raffle - Drawing during Boutiques & Greek Treats, Sunday, December 6, 2026

Festival of Ministries - Philoptochos Table- Stop by and visit our table in the Community Center on September 13, 2026, to sign up to help us throughout the year. Bring a friend and sign them up as a new member!

Sisters and Spritzers Welcome Back Potluck- Friday, September 25, 2026, 6 pm. For further information about the event, and to register, please see the flyer.

Trip to Woodbury Outlets- Saturday, October 3, 2026. NY trip to Woodbury Common Premium Outlets and Molos restaurant. For further details see the flyer.

Sharing Excess- Our next food-distribution service activity will take place on Saturday, October 10 - stay tuned for more details.

General Assembly- Our first General Assembly of the year is scheduled for October 11th after Liturgy. We are pleased to welcome Dr. Elena Lamb who will speak to us on the very important topic of breast cancer awareness. For more details, please see flyer.

St. Luke Name Day Celebrations- Our Philoptochos will be hosting a St. Luke Name Day reception following Vespers on Saturday, October 17, and a luncheon following Liturgy on Sunday, October 18. Volunteers are invited to help prepare and/or serve meals for these community events that honor our blessed Patron Saint. Chairladies Maria Vamvakidou and Christina Mahjouri (Vespers), and Diane Sioutis and Vicky Ntontos (luncheon) would so appreciate your help!

Reception Sponsorship- Sponsor a St. Luke Community Reception! Celebrate faith, honor loved ones, and help build community by sponsoring one of St. Luke's

upcoming receptions: St. Luke Name Day Vespers on Saturday, October 17, and St. Luke Name Day Luncheon on Sunday, October 18. Your sponsorship supports joyful, meaningful receptions and is recognized with gratitude. Scan the QR code for details and to become a sponsor. For questions please contact info@stlukephiloptochos.org.



St. Luke
RECEPTIONS
Sponsorship

CELEBRATE FAITH. HONOR FAMILY. BUILD COMMUNITY.

Your sponsorship, in honor or in memory of a loved one, helps support St. Luke Receptions - fellowship, celebration, and meaningful memories.
Together, we make every gathering special.

 HONOR FAMILY Sponsor in honor or in memory of a loved one.	 BUILD COMMUNITY Foster connection through faith-filled celebrations.	 CELEBRATE TOGETHER Help us create joyful, memorable receptions.	 RECOGNIZED & VALUED Sponsors are acknowledged with gratitude and pride.
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BECOME A SPONSOR TODAY BY SCANNING THE QR CODE

'At the Chef's Table' Cooking Class- On Saturday, October 23, we will recreate the salmon cakes from our 'Wine Event' with our AMAZING Christina Thomas. Come out, prepare the meal, enjoy a glass of wine, and dine with your friends!

Bag Bingo-The Ladies Philoptochos Society is excited to introduce a brand new fundraising event - **Bag Bingo** on **November 6, 2026 in the Community Center!** Join us for a fabulous night of bingo, beautiful designer bags, luxury raffles, and wonderful company - all benefiting our Philoptochos charities! Tickets: \$35 per person. *More details on the flyer.*

Cape May Fall Raffle- Our Cape May Fall Raffle is back! Chances are \$20 each and are available for purchase on our website and through Philoptochos board members. The prize package features resort accommodations, gift cards to two of historic Cape May's favorite restaurants, and more- a \$1,300 value!

12th Annual Boutiques & Greek Treats 2026- "Save the Dates"! 2026 Boutiques & Greek Treats. Saturday, December 5th & Sunday, December 6th. Interested vendors, as well as volunteers needed to help with publicity and solicit some vendors, may contact boutiquesgt@gmail.com or the church office 610-353-1592.

Philoptochos Charity Committee- On June 24, 2026, the Charity Committee donated \$5,000 to Friends Association for Care and Protection of Children in support of families in their care. Friends Association works to prevent and end homelessness for families with children by providing housing, supportive services, and resources that help families move toward greater stability and independence. Our donation will help the organization continue providing critical assistance to families facing difficult circumstances, ensuring that parents and children have access to the support and resources they need as they work toward a more secure future.

Also on June 24, 2026, the Charity Committee donated \$5,000 to Covenant House Pennsylvania, an organization dedicated to supporting young people experiencing homelessness and housing instability. Covenant House provides youth with a safe place to stay as well as essential services, including food, clothing, healthcare, education and employment assistance, and individualized support as they work toward stability and independence. Our donation will help further this important mission and provide vulnerable young people with the safety, resources, and opportunities they need to build a more secure future.

On July 4, 2026, the Charity Committee designated \$2,000 to the FOCUS North America Back-to-School Backpack Fundraiser, coordinated by the St. Luke Sunday School. The donation funded the purchase of 80 backpacks and accompanying school-supply kits, helping local students begin the school year prepared and excited to learn. Fifty-six of the backpacks will be distributed to third-grade students at Chester Charter Scholars Academy (CCSA). This year, an extra expression of philanthropy includes supermarket gift cards for families who have lost their homes and are in desperate need of donations. The CCSA backpacks were filled by Sunday School children and their families on Sunday, Aug. 16, then the backpacks and ShopRite gift cards were delivered to CCSA on August 18, 2026.

On July 29, 2026, the Ladies Philoptochos of St. Luke was honored by AHEPA at its National Convention in Philadelphia for our ongoing support of the AHEPA Service Dog Program. The annual convention, held at the Downtown Marriott, brought together AHEPA members from across the country. Accepting the award on behalf of our President and Vice President, who were unable to attend, were Joanna Mattis, Karen Kotapka, and Maria Kalisperis.

Our Ladies Philoptochos is proud to have donated eight service dogs through the AHEPA Service Dog Program. These donations reflect our continued commitment to supporting veterans and others whose lives can be profoundly changed by the

assistance, companionship, and independence a service dog can provide. One of the most moving moments of the convention came when John, an Army veteran who served in Iraq and Afghanistan, shared his story alongside his service dog, Marla. John spoke candidly about the difficulty of returning home and trying to find his place in a society that felt foreign after his experiences overseas. At one point, he reached a place where he felt he could no longer continue. John shared how Marla changed the course of his life, giving him support, companionship, and a renewed sense of hope. Her presence not only helped save his life, but also profoundly affected the lives of those who love him. Hearing John and Marla's story was a powerful reminder of the very real impact behind each service dog our chapter helps provide. We are deeply honored to receive this recognition from AHEPA and grateful for the opportunity to support such a meaningful program. Most importantly, we thank our Philoptochos members and supporters whose generosity makes this ministry possible. Together, we are helping make a lasting difference—one service dog and one life at a time.

On August 1, 2026, the Charity Committee donated \$2,500 to Grands Stepping Up, a local nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting grandparents and other relative caregivers who have stepped into the role of raising children when parents are unable to do so. The funds were designated to assist a grandmother in need, providing direct support to help alleviate some of the financial challenges associated with caring for her family. Through this donation, our chapter was able to support the important work of Grands Stepping Up while making a meaningful and immediate difference.

This summer, the third-grade team of teachers and staff at Chester Charter Scholars Academy (CCSA), worked with our Committee to secure the date of November 9th when we will go to read with the students and present each with a brand-new book to take home with them. This is an addition to the book they receive at the beginning of the school year. We are always looking for volunteer readers who have one hour on Monday morning, November 9th to join us at CCSA and to read with students who adore the attention and want you to see and hear how well they read.

Sponsorship of Floral Décor- Sponsorship opportunities are available throughout the year for ecclesiastic feast days. Sponsorship can be made in honor or in memory of a loved one or for the well-being of your family.

Upcoming sponsorship opportunities include:

Tuesday September 8th - Nativity of the Theotokos

Monday September 14th - Elevation of the Holy Cross



To sponsor an icon, pay online through the Philoptochos website; scan the QR code or mail your payment to the church and include the words 'icon sponsorship' on your envelope. If you have any questions, you may contact Niki Tsetsekos at 610-500-3056 or ntsetsekos@gmail.com.

Sisters & Spritzers



A WELCOME BACK
POTLUCK SOCIAL



Join Us!

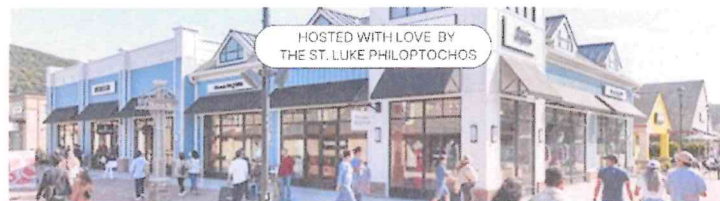
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH | 6PM
ST. LUKE SOCIAL HALL PATIO
(WEATHER PERMITTING)



Scan to RSVP and Sign up to Bring an Item

@stlukephiloptochos.org

info@stlukephiloptochos.org



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THE ST. LUKE PHILOPTOCHOS

NY TRIP TO

WOODBURY COMMON PREMIUM
OUTLETS & MOLOS RESTAURANT

SATURDAY, OCT. 3RD



TRAVEL IN STYLE BY COACH
BUS TO THE **WOODBURY
PREMIUM OUTLETS** IN NEW
YORK

ENJOY AUTHENTIC GREEK
SEAFOOD CUISINE AT **MOLOS**
ONE OF THE AREAS MOST
SCENIC RESTAURANTS.



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YOU LOVE!!!

• SAINT LAURENT
• TORI BURCH
• GUCCI
• DIOR

• PRADA
• FENDI
• FERRAGAMO
• BURBERRY...AND MORE!



TRIP
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• RELAX WITH ROUND-TRIP
COACH TRANSPORTATION
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PARKING, JUST FUN.

• ~5 HOURS OF SHOPPING AT
PREMIUM OUTLETS
• DINNER AT MOLOS ON THE
WATERFRONT

\$145/PERSON - SCAN TO RESERVE BY 9/6!
SPACE IS LIMITED!



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SHOPPING AND SKYLINE DINING!

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PHILOPTOCHOS GENERAL ASSEMBLY &

Breast
Cancer

Awareness
Presentation

AFTER
LITURGY

Sunday
Oct 11



Scan
to RSVP

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

DR. ELENA LAMB MD, MS, FACS
BREAST SURGICAL ONCOLOGIST



All Welcome!

Join us in the St. Luke Social Hall

www.stlukephiloptochos.org
info@stlukephiloptochos.org

BAG BINGO

ST. LUKE PHILOPTOCHOS



November 6, 2026

7:00 PM

St. Luke Community Center
35 N. Malin Rd
Broomall, PA 19008

Join us for a night out with binge
beautiful bags and even better company!

Admission \$35 | Scan to Purchase Tickets

info@stlukephiloptochos.org





MONDAY OCTOBER 12, 2026

REGISTRATION 11AM
SHOT GUN START 12PM
AFTER PARTY TO FOLLOW

Paxon Hollow Country Club
850 Paxon Hollow Road
Media, PA 19063

ENTRY FEE
\$200 PER GOLFER

- Green fees & cart
- Lunch, Beer/Soda Cart
- Player gift
- After Party Dinner Reception



SCAN QR CODE
TO REGISTER & PAY
DEADLINE OCTOBER 7

SPONSORSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES

- Platinum Sponsorship \$7000
- After Party Dinner \$6000
- Gold Sponsorship \$4000
- Silver Sponsorship \$2000
- Beer/Soda Cart \$1000
- Putting Sponsor \$500
- Hole Sponsor \$250

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Building our Future.

For Information

Demetrios Fragogiannis demetrios326@yahoo.com
Andrew Papageorge abpapa@comcast.net

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Festival of Grecian Flavor and Delights

≡ SEPTEMBER ≡
18 • 19 • 20

FESTIVAL HOURS



FRIDAY
4 PM - 10 PM



SATURDAY
11 AM - 10 PM



SUNDAY
12 PM - 8 PM



SAINT LUKE

35 N. Malin Rd.,
Broomall, PA

VOLUNTEER



SCAN TO VOLUNTEER

BECOME A SPONSOR



SCAN TO BECOME A SPONSOR

GO GREEN?

For your convenience, our monthly bulletin,

The Epistle is now online and can be accessed by visiting the church website

www.st-luke.org

Just click on "Monthly Epistle". If you would like to receive the Epistle in this digital format only and not by mail, please email our Office Manager:

stlukeoffice@gmail.com or call (610) 353-1592

**St. Luke Greek Orthodox Church
35 N. Malin Road
Broomall, PA 19008**

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