

The image shows the interior of a Gothic Revival church, St. Luke Tabernacle. The view is from the back of the sanctuary looking down the central aisle. The floor is a checkered tile pattern. The pews are made of dark wood. The ceiling is a high, vaulted wooden structure with intricate truss work. In the background, there is a large, ornate altar with a stained glass window above it. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple and blue gradient. A large, stylized number '150' is centered in the image, with the '1' and '0' being thin white lines and the '5' being a thick, 3D-style number with a blue-to-purple gradient. The text 'ST. LUKE TABERNACLE' is positioned above the '150' and 'ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION' is positioned below it, both in white, all-caps, sans-serif font.

ST. LUKE TABERNACLE

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



ABOUT THE MINISTRY

THE HISTORY OF ST. LUKE TABERNACLE

The organizing of the faith community that would be St. Luke Tabernacle Community Church convened with forty-seven souls in the summer of 2000 at St. Bridget's Church, 8 Mark Street in Rochester, New York.

Those congregated selected Rev. James H. Evans, Jr., Ph.D., as the church's founding pastor; and on October 6, 2000, solidified the name of the church, which was formed by merging other iterations. Additionally, ad hoc committees were formed to organize the new faith community to include: Site Selection, Worship, Finance, Church Operations, Constitution, Music, Public Relations, and Youth Outreach; and three Trustees were elected.

The inaugural service of St. Luke Tabernacle Community Church was held on Sunday, November 5, 2000, at the Interfaith Chapel, on the campus of the University of Rochester. The church began with forty-eight members; the inaugural worship service had one hundred seventy-six in attendance. We have lived into Tabernacle in terms of temporary worship space. In January 2001, we relocated to The Baptist Temple (January - October 2001), after which we moved to Breath of Life Seventh Day Adventist Church on Clifford Avenue. Membership grew to 143 during our three-year sojourn in that worship space. By 2004, our membership had grown to 300, and in November 2004, we were blessed to move into our own worship space at 1261 Dewey Avenue, where we would spend twenty years.

In June 2016, Rev. Evans was asked to serve as Dean of Education with Kingdom Council of Interdependent Christian Churches & Ministries. With his acceptance of the position, Rev. Evans was elevated to the bishopric, of said Reformation. With the added responsibilities, Rev. Linda Hickmon Evans became Co-Pastor at St. Luke Tabernacle in 2017.



As with all churches at the time, St. Luke Tabernacle Community Church shut its doors in the aftermath of a State mandate during the COVID-19 pandemic that ravaged our country, our families and our congregation. With plans to reopen months later, the building had sustained structural damage from disuse. During that same period, our beloved founding pastor, Bishop James H. Evans, Jr., passed in August 2022.

In September 2022, Rev. Linda Hickmon Evans, Ph.D., assumed the pastorate of St. Luke Tabernacle Community Church. In June 2023, Rev. Linda was named as Dean of Education of Kingdom Council of Interdependent Christian Churches and Ministries, succeeding her beloved husband.

In February 2024, St. Luke Tabernacle moved to Linehan Chapel at Nazareth University. In this space began by the Sisters of St. Joseph, Rev. Linda serves as the Protestant Chaplain, and advisor to the student led Christian Fellowship Organization.

Throughout its history, St. Luke Tabernacle Community Church as been actively involved members of American Baptist Churches, USA/Rochester Genesee Region; Progressive National Baptist Convention; and most recently, Kingdom Council of Interdependent Christian Churches & Ministries. In each of these bodies, both the Evans's and members of the congregation have been actively involved as officers and program participants, presenters, and/or preachers.

St. Luke Tabernacle Community Church continues to be a thriving congregation, committed to serving God and the community in which we are located. We are thankful for the many years of groundbreaking ministry that have been fostered in this place by the creative and spirit filled members and friends who grace this community of faith.

History is still being made; we welcome you to join us at Linehan Chapel at Nazareth University at 10 am!





REMEMBERING OUR FOUNDER

THE RIGHT REVEREND DOCTOR JAMES H. EVANS, JR.

The Reverend Dr. James H. Evans, Jr., was the 9th President of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School. He served in that role between 1990 - 2000, where he was the first African American to serve as CRCDS' Chief Executive Officer. During his ten-year tenure as President, the seminary established the Program for the Study of Women and Gender in Church and Society, focused on faculty recruitment, increased the endowment, created the Tower Society, and increased available scholarships for students.

Dr. Evans joined the divinity school's faculty in 1979 as an Instructor of Theology and Black Church Studies. During his almost three decades of service to students and the broader community, Dr. Evans served with distinction as Dean of the Program of Black Church Studies, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Professor of Theology and Black Church Studies and, the Robert K. Davies Professor of Systematic Theology. Dr. Evans authored numerous articles and five books, to include - *Playing: Christian Explorations of Daring Living*; *We Shall All Be Changed: Social Problems and Theological Renewal*; *We Have Been Believers: An African American Systematic Theology*; *Black Theology: A Critical Assessment and Annotated Bibliography*; and *Spiritual Empowerment in Afro-American Literature*.

A native of Detroit, Michigan, and the son of a Baptist minister, Bishop Evans graduated from the Cranbrook Schools, the University of Michigan (A.B.), Yale University Divinity School (M.Div.), and Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York (M.Phil. and Ph.D.).

Dr. Evans was the Founding Pastor of the St. Luke Tabernacle Community Church in Rochester, New York, established in 2000, and St. Luke Tabernacle Community Church of Detroit, Michigan in 2006. He was consecrated as a Bishop in The Kingdom Council of Interdependent Christian Churches and Ministries in 2016.

A much beloved family man; Bishop Evans transitioned to be with the Lord on August 25, 2022.



OUR PASTOR

THE REVEREND DOCTOR LINDA HICKMON EVANS

Rev. Linda Hickmon Evans, Ph.D., is an ordained minister of the American Baptist Churches, USA, and currently serves as the Senior Pastor of St. Luke Tabernacle Community Church in Rochester, New York. Dr. Evans is actively involved in the Rochester community, serving on various boards and volunteering in different capacities. She serves as the Pastor-in-Residence at Nazareth University. Dr. Hickmon Evans understands her vocation to be that of a bridge-builder, having the academy, community, and church coalesce.

Dr. Evans has served as President and Senator of the Ministers Council of the Genesee Region of American Baptist Churches, USA; Faculty at St. John Fisher College; Faculty Associate at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School; consultant at the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Divinity School in Richmond, Virginia; and as a Visiting Professor at the Tamilnadu Theological Seminary in Maduri, India. Previous pastoral appointments include: West Avenue United Methodist Church, Metropolitan United Methodist Church (Buffalo), Asbury First United Methodist Church, and Extension Ministry at Action for a Better Community, where she served as Director of Planning & Evaluation.

A native of Mississippi, she attended Jackson State University, where she earned her bachelor's degree with a double major in Special Education and Elementary Education. She earned her M.Div. from Emory University's Candler School of Theology, and a Ph.D. from Claremont School of Theology (California). Her area of concentration is Theology & Personality. She is a member of the Theta Omega Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., and the widow of the late Bishop James H. Evans, Jr., Ph.D.

Tapestry OF A LEGACY



The wall hanging depicted was lovingly crafted by Lois Johnson, a caring neighbor and dear friend of Rev. Linda Hickmon Evans; but the connection runs deeper—Lois is married to Rev. Richard Johnson, a Lutheran pastor who attended seminary with Bishop Evans at Yale Divinity School. Their intertwined stories echo the profound bonds that tie us together.

The vibrant patches of fabric are ties and kerchiefs that belonged to the late Bishop Evans. For those who knew and loved him, these pieces may evoke cherished memories—you might recognize a few or have gifted him one. Bishop had a special fondness for bow ties, and cut quite the dashing figure in them.

Just like food, quilts are a heartfelt way to communicate love and family. This wall hanging stands as a beautiful symbol of Bishop Evans's enduring presence and everlasting legacy among us, a tangible reminder of the love and memories that continue to inspire our community.

ORDER OF CELEBRATION

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION GALA

Saturday, November 8, 2025 | 6:00 PM

Musical Introit

Mistress of Ceremony

Rev. Catherine Wilson

Invocation and Grace

Rev. Dr. Sandra Hasenauer

Musical Selection

Renaissance

Welcome

Louise Williams Brooks

Occasion

Chauncey Brooks

Greetings

Elected Officials

Introduction of Speaker

Rev. Linda Hickmon Evans, Ph.D.

Musical Selection

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Keynote Speaker

Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs - Strain, General Secretary
American Baptist Churches, USA

DINNER IS SERVED

Music

Renaissance

Special Presentations

Rev. Linda Hickmon Evans, Ph.D.

Prayer of Dismissal

Bishop Roderick Mitchell



Rev. Gina Jacobs-Strain
General Secretary, ABC-USA
Keynote Speaker



Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Henry van Dyke

Ode to Joy

Ludwig van Beethoven

Joy - ful, joy - ful, we a - dore Thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love;
All Thy works with joy sur-round Thee, Earth & heav'n re - flect Thy rays,

Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore Thee, Op' - ning to the sun a - bove.
Stars and an - gels sing a - round Thee, Cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.

Melt the clouds of sin and sad-ness; Drive the dark of doubt a - way!
Field and for - est, vale and moun-tain, Flow' - ry mead-ow, flash - ing sea,

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, Fill us with the light of day!
Sing - ing bird and flow - ing foun-tain Call us to re - jice in Thee.



**Kingdom Council of Interdependent Christian Churches
and Ministries**

hereby extends its

Official Congratulations

to Rev. Dr. Linda Hickmon Evans and the St. Luke Tabernacle Community Church on the joyous occasion of your 25th Church Anniversary!

Over the past 25 years, you have faithfully equipped your congregants with the tools and spiritual foundation to grow stronger in their walk with Christ. Your unwavering impact and commitment to the local community are truly commendable and deeply appreciated.

Our prayer is that St. Luke Tabernacle Community Church will continue to be a place of hope, healing, and transformation for generations to come. May God's grace guide you, His Spirit strengthen you, and His presence remain at the center of all you do.

May God enlarge your territory, multiply your impact, and prosper the work of your hands for another 25 years and beyond.

Presented this 28th day of September 2025.

Archbishop David M. Copeland, DMin.
Presiding Prelate
Kingdom Council of Interdependent
Christian Churches and Ministries



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES USA

Rev. Dr. Gina C. Jacobs-Strain
General Secretary

August 15, 2025

A Resolution Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of St. Luke Tabernacle Community Church
From the American Baptist Churches USA Office of the General Secretary

To the Sr. Pastor Rev. Dr. Linda Hickmon Evans, the Ministerial Staff, Leadership, the Faithful Members and Friends of St. Luke Tabernacle Community Church,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is with great joy and deep appreciation that I extend this resolution in celebration of the **25th Anniversary of St. Luke Tabernacle Community Church**. I am especially honored to join you in worship and to proclaim God's Word during this milestone occasion on November 8, 2025.

For a quarter of a century, St. Luke Tabernacle Community Church has stood as a vibrant witness to the power of God's Word and the transforming presence of the Gospel in daily life. Your ministry has shaped lives and brought light to your community, offering care, hope, and spiritual guidance to those you serve."

Your commitment to preaching and living the Gospel is evident in how you serve—faithfully feeding the hungry, mentoring the next generation, nurturing spiritual growth, and extending hope where it is needed most. You have embraced the call to be a church where faith is not just professed, but practiced—meeting people where they are and walking with them in the love and truth of Christ.

As you mark this 25th anniversary, may you reflect on the lives changed, the prayers answered, and the ministry milestones reached along the way. And may you look ahead with renewed strength and bold vision, knowing that the same God who has guided you thus far will continue to equip you for every good work.

Be it therefore resolved, that we celebrate with gratitude the founding and flourishing of St. Luke Tabernacle Community Church;

Be it further resolved, that we honor the pastors, leaders, and members—past and present—who have poured themselves into this ministry and shaped it with faith and love;

Be it finally resolved, that the American Baptist Churches USA family gives thanks for the faithful witness of St. Luke Tabernacle Community Church and prays God's continued blessing upon your next chapter of mission and ministry.

Congratulations on 25 years of faithful service. May your church continue to be a beacon of light and a testimony to God's enduring love.

In Christ's love,

Rev. Dr. Gina C. Jacobs-Strain
General Secretary
American Baptist Churches USA

TWENTY-FIVE DAYS OF ST. LUKE

NOVEMBER 1, 2025 – OCTOBER 31, 2026

Day	Date	Event	Location	Speaker/Preacher/Guests	Time
1	Saturday November 1 st	All Saints Day Ecumenical Prayer Service	Interfaith Chapel University of Rochester	Rev. Melany Silas Chandler, Ph.D.	10:00 am
2	Saturday November 8 th	25 th Anniversary Banquet	Genesee Valley Club	Rev. Dr. Gina Jacobs-Strain General Secretary American Baptist Churches, USA	6:00 pm
3	Sunday November 9 th	25 th Anniversary Homecoming Worship Service	Linehan Chapel Nazareth University	Bishop Roderick Mitchell New Life Church Cleveland, Mississippi	2:00 pm
4	Sunday November 30 th	In the Community Mission			
5	Sunday December 7 th	Christmas Concert	Linehan Chapel Nazareth University		
6	Wednesday, December 31 st	Day of Fasting			
7	Saturday January 2026	Self-Defense Class			
8	Wednesday February 18 th	Ash Wednesday	Linehan Chapel Nazareth University		
9	Friday, March 13 th	North Star Players Presents: God's Trombone	Pace Theater	David Shakes	7:00 pm
10	Saturday, March 14 th				7:00 PM
11	Sunday, March 15 th	↓			2:00 PM
12	Sunday March 29 th	In the Community Mission			
13	Saturday, April 10	Jazz Café	Forum – Shults	Larry Singleton	7:00 PM
14	Friday, May 15 th	North Star Players Present: God's Trombone	Pace Theater	David Shakes	7:00 PM
15	Saturday, May 16 th		Pace Theater	David Shakes	7:00 PM
16	Sunday, May 17 th	↓	Pace Theater	David Shakes	2:00 PM
17	Sunday May 31 st	In the Community Mission			
18	Saturday, July	Painting with a Purpose			
19	Sunday August 30 th	In the Community Mission			
20	Wednesday, September 9 th	Fall Revival			
21	Thursday, September 10 th				
22	Friday, September 11 th				
23	Sunday, September 13 th	Pastor's Anniversary			
24	Saturday, September 19 th	Cook-Off Women vs. Men of St. Luke	Buckland Park	Louise Williams Brooks	
25	Sunday November 29 th	In the Community Mission			

ORDER OF CELEBRATION

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Musical Introit

Opening Remarks

Louise Willams Brooks & Chauncey Brooks

Reflections from the Community

Rev. Dr. T. Anthony Bronner

Senior Pastor, ELIM Christian Fellowship

Rev. Dr. Sandra Hasenauer, Executive Minister

American Baptist Churches, USA/Rochester Genesee Region

Rev. Dr. Emilio Alvarez

Vice President for Academic Affairs & Dean

Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School

Jamie Fazio, Chaplin

Nazareth University

Centering Moment by the Worship Leader

Pastor Linda Hickmon Evans

Music of Praise

Intercessory Prayer

Rev. Catherine Wilson

Scripture Readings

Romans 4:20-21, 24 | Revelation 3:8

Beryl J. Wilson & Benjamin F. Harper, Jr.

Introduction of Speaker

Pastor Linda Hickmon Evans

Sermonic Song

Starr Ryland Buntley & Dyshawn Wall

Sermon

Bishop Roderick Mitchell

Bishop Roderick Mitchell

Cleveland, MS

Guest Speaker

Invitation to Discipleship

Pastor Linda Hickmon Evans

Offering | Rev. Dr. Emilio Alvarez



Offertory Response/ Prayer

*All things come of Thee O Lord, and of Thine own
have we given Thee. Amen.*

Closing Remarks

Pastor Linda Hickmon Evans

Closing Song

God be with you until we Meet Again

Benediction

Bishop Roderick Mitchell



ST. LUKE TABERNACLE
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION