The New Year at St. Luke's Episcopal Church

TIDINGS

a newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church and School
OUR VISION
St. Luke’s Episcopal Church is called by God to illuminate San Antonio with the light of Christ through transformative education for people of all ages, compassionate care for every member of our community, and inspiring worship and music in the Episcopal tradition.
From the Rector

The beginning of the year is an exciting time, a time of energy and hopefulness and anticipation. It’s a great time to look back and reflect on recent accomplishments, but more importantly, the start of the new year provides an opportunity for looking forward and making plans.

The Annual Parish Meeting gives the congregation an opportunity to do both. I hope you'll plan to join us on Sunday, January 26, for the Annual Parish Meeting. We’re adjusting our worship schedule that day to three services:

8:00am
10:00am
6:00pm

The Annual Meeting will be in the church, immediately following the 10:00am service. This gathering will give parishioners a chance to hear from key parish leaders, who will remind us of some of the highlights of 2019. We'll also get a chance to learn about plans for various ministries in 2020. Financial information will be distributed, with the focus being on the Operating Budget for 2020. Also, parishioners will get to vote for new members of the Vestry.

I'm especially excited about the Annual Meeting, because for me it will be an occasion for looking back on my first year as Rector of St. Luke's Church. Over the past year there have been some surprises and some challenges, but my heart is filled with joy as I give thanks for the privilege of ministering here. I love telling friends about the St. Luke's community, and I'm even more sure now than I was a year ago that St. Luke's is well-equipped for the future.

The Annual Meeting is always a great setting for remembering the mission of the church. All Episcopal churches share a common mission, expressed in the Catechism of the Book of Common Prayer:

The mission of the Church
is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.
The Church pursues its mission as it prays and worships,
proclaims the Gospel,
and promotes justice, peace, and love.

(BCP, p. 855)

Each congregation lives into that mission in its own way. Here at St. Luke's, our own Vision Statement, adopted by the Vestry some years ago, continues to guide us in our understanding of the church's mission:

St. Luke's is called by God to illuminate San Antonio with the light of Christ through transformative education for people of all ages, compassionate care for each member of our community, and inspiring worship and music in the Episcopal tradition.

I’m excited about keeping this vision in front of us as we dream together about the future and as we make plans for the coming days.

I'll look forward to sharing the Annual Parish Meeting with you on January 26.

THE REV. IRV CUTTER
Rector
rector@stlukes-sa.net
January 19th • Bibles for 2 Year Olds
On Sunday, January 19th the 2 year olds and their families will receive their Bible and a special blessing. The Bibles are St. Luke’s gift to you! Parents of 2’s will be receiving more information in the beginning of January. We would love to include ALL 2’s and their families. So if you have a 2-year-old, or if your child will be turning 2 at the beginning of 2020, please let Suzanna Frey know.

January 19th • Budget Discussion Meeting
10:00 AM. During the Sunday School hour in the Large Conference room.

January 19th • Choral Evensong
4:30 PM in the Sanctuary. Our first Evensong of the new year features the music of Charles Wood: the introit is his setting of “O Lord, that seest from yon starry height” and the anthem being “Expectans Expectavi” – a setting by the Scottish poet Charles Sorley, who was killed during the Battle of Loos (France) in the First World War. The text begins: This sanctuary of my soul, unwitting I keep white and whole; Unlatched and lit, if thou shouldst care to enter and tarry there. These are transcendent moments of the Anglican choral tradition and speak of beauty and peace – something we desperately need in this time. Reception in the parlor.

January 23rd • St. Luke’s School Admission Preview
9:00 AM

January 26th • Annual Parish Meeting
Services at 8 AM and a combined 10 AM. The meeting and vestry voting will take place in the Sanctuary at 11 AM.

February 7th • Parents’ Night Out
5:30 PM - 10:00 PM

February 7th • Amigos Potluck Dinner
Amigos is St. Luke’s fellowship group for the “sandwich” generation of 30 to 50 - somethings in our faith community. February 7th from 6:30-9:30. For more information please contact Kim West – kimbolinasue@gmail.com.

February 16th • Choral Evensong
4:30 PM in the Sanctuary. We have something quite different in February when we sing a new (not modern!) setting of the evening canticles by Herbert Sumstion. You’ve already heard his setting in G, but this is a different one in A. Again, beautiful tunes that describe Mary’s joy at the birth of her son, and Simeon’s prayer to God at Jesus’ Presentation in the Temple – perfect for the season of Epiphany. The introit is Philip Wilby’s “If ye love me” – a living English composer who we met while singing last year at Ripon Cathedral. And the anthem is by the famous Californian composer Morten Lauridsen who set the O nata lux text (O Light, born of Light) in his typical lush style. Reception in the parlor.

February 25th • Shrove Tuesday
5:30 - 7:00 PM in the Parish Hall.
Ash Wednesday (and the beginning of the season of Lent) is on February 26th, so let’s get together before that and enjoy “breakfast for dinner”, complete with all-you-can-eat pancakes, syrup, bacon and sausage! In addition to this delicious meal, there will be “Mardi Gras” crafts for kids. All are welcome AND are encouraged to bring friends!

February 26th • Ash Wednesday
Services at 8 AM, 12 PM, & 6 PM.
Childcare available at 12 PM and 6 PM

March 6th • Parents’ Night Out
5:30 PM - 10:00 PM

March 22nd • Confirmation Classes Begin
More information will be provided in the Lent and Easter issue of Tidings coming in February.

April 3rd • Parents’ Night Out
5:30 PM - 10:00 PM

April 5th • Palm Sunday
April 12th • Easter Sunday
May 24th • Confirmation Sunday
May 31st • Pentecost Sunday

Morning Service Schedule - January 26th
On Sunday, January 26th, there will be an 8:00 AM Service and a combined 10:00 AM Service.

The Annual Parish Meeting will directly follow the 10:00 AM service.
An Invitation to Parents

Admission Preview
Thursday, January 23, 2020, 9 am

RSVP www.sles-sa.org | Reservations encouraged | Walk-ins welcome

If you would like a tour of SLES but can't make the Admission Preview, contact Margaret Ann Casseb, Director of Admissions at 210.826.0664 ext. 239 or macasseb@sles-sa.org.
Vestry Candidates

Over the past 30-45 days the SLEC Vestry Nominating Committee has been meeting and discussing the numerous candidates that have been recommended. We are extremely grateful to everyone that provided us with names and guidance as we sorted through the candidates.

Members of the Nominating Committee were: David Cotton, Margaret Kelley, Elizabeth Turner, Rachel Lincoln, Rad Fleischer, Marie Morgan, Melissa Priest, Robin Newman, Steve McAllister & Anne Vineyard.

The Committee met to vet and discuss candidates, qualifications, commitment to SLEC and willingness to serve. As a result, the Nominating Committee is pleased to present to the SLEC parish the following seven individuals who have been selected and agreed to stand for election to the vestry. At the Annual Parish meeting, parishoners will elect five candidates to serve three-year terms on the vestry.

Catherine Bishop
Years Attending: 11 Years
Occupation: Partner and Director of Employee Benefits for Catto & Catto LLP

What groups/Ministries of St. Luke’s are you involved in?
I have served on the vestry for the past year. I was fortunate to fill a one-year vacancy on the current vestry, and I would love the opportunity to continue my service on the vestry. I have been particularly involved in stewardship and youth ministries. I am a member of the stewardship committee and worked to organize a successful consecration Sunday. I am a member of the search committee seeking a new Youth Director for St. Luke’s, which is particularly important to me because we have three children at St. Luke’s, and I am passionate about building and strengthening our youth ministries.

What do you love about St. Luke’s?
I love the warm and welcoming community that St. Luke’s provides. It is our family church home and I love that we can worship together in such a special place. Many members of the church are working hard to make St. Luke’s even better, and I am excited about our church’s future.

What gifts or skills would you bring to vestry leadership?
My experience and perspective as a mother of young children and as a business owner help me contribute to vestry leadership. I believe it is vital to attract and retain young families at St. Luke’s, and I am committed to that effort. I have leadership experience managing a broad range of organizational issues and making critical decisions both from my business career, as well as serving on several non-profit boards. My experience serving on the vestry this past year has been invaluable, and I have learned much about the needs, desires, challenges and opportunities of St. Luke’s. I would love the opportunity to continue my service on the vestry for a full three-year term.
Jill Martinez
Years Attending: 10 Years
Occupation: Stay at Home Mom/Volunteer/Neora Independent Brand Partner

What groups/Ministries of St. Luke's are you involved in?
During my time here at St. Luke's I have served as Chairman of The Green Door, Vacation Bible School Chairman, Christian Giving Chairman, Women of St. Luke's Board, Lay Eucharistic Ministry Team Captain for the Luke Team. Been part of the Diocesan Council, Altar Guild, Discernment Committee, Nursery Committee, Holy Strollers, Monday Mom's Group and All Things Kids Sale. I have helped lead Sunday school classes, organize the WOSL women's retreat, Happening and HIS Love. Recently, I worked at the church - both at the Administrative Assistant for Children and Youth Ministries and was also the Director of Children & Family Ministries.

What do you love about St. Luke's?
From the moment we first attended St. Luke's we were warmly welcomed. St. Luke's has been a safe and comforting place for our family to grow in our faith.

What gifts or skills would you bring to vestry leadership?
Having served on a variety of non-profit boards and committees, I have an in-depth look and understanding at how progress is made and the importance of working towards a common goal. Some of the gifts and skills I would bring to the vestry are strong communication, organization and analytical skills. I am observant, helpful, reliable and a problem solver. I enjoy finding ways to make things run more effectively and I'm passionate about helping others.

Nancy Hawkins
Years Attending: 30+ Years
Occupation: Teacher

What groups/Ministries of St. Luke's are you involved in?
I serve St Luke's as a verger, in the Altar Guild, LEM, Acolyte Master. In the past I have taught 1st communion and Godly Play, worked with VBS, am a former vestry member, diocesan council as a delegate and alternate. I served on the search committee for Music Director, and have participated in 2 Mission trips to Haiti.

What do you love about St. Luke's?
I love that St. Luke's congregation is diverse in its views, and yet welcomes and embraces each other as family, taking on the Baptistmal covenant.

What gifts or skills would you bring to vestry leadership?
My teaching career has given me leadership skills that include the ability to listen openly to varied opinions, and to work with others in setting and working toward a common goal. I look forward to helping St Luke's, through the vestry, to achieve our goals.
Joe Jones  
Years Attending: 7 Years.  
Occupation: Retired (Foreign Mission Work & Education)  

What groups/Ministries of St. Luke's are you involved in?  
Altar Guild since 2013. Lunch Bunch Committee for four years (last two as chairman). I have worked at the Green Door Thrift Shop on Tuesdays and Saturdays for about five years. I was selected to serve on the recent search committee that recommended Fr. Irv to the vestry. I was honored to serve as a delegate to the Diocesan Council in McAllen in 2019. Marilyn and I regularly attend the 8 am worship service and the 10 am Adult Education class.

What do you love about St. Luke's?  
I love the liturgy; the culture of a warm and caring attitude shown by members toward one another; meaningful and spiritual messages from both Fr. Irv and Fr. Michael; a talented choir and beautiful music; the concern and dedication to see continuing growth of membership; warm, welcoming, and supportive manner extended to visitors; wonderful and caring friends personally made at St. Luke's.

What gifts or skills would you bring to vestry leadership?  
I graduated with an engineering degree from Texas A&M University then attended the University of Houston Law School. After a year and a half, I made the decision to go into foreign mission work. After intensive Biblical studies I completed a Masters degree in Missiology from Abilene Christian University.

I spent a little over 22 years in foreign mission work located in Auckland, New Zealand; Madras, India; Freetown, Sierra Leone and Lagos, Nigeria West Africa; Nairobi, Kenya East Africa. Toward the end of my mission work, I was invited to work with a group printing Bibles in Vienna, Austria and then smuggling them into Communist Eastern European countries.

These experiences afforded me the opportunity to learn about leadership and the value of teamwork which teaches responsibility and cooperation in making decisions on how to best accomplish common goals. My work was always focused on church planting and on training personnel to be church leaders and teachers of God's word.

Upon returning from overseas, I spent the next 25 years in the field of education. The first 12 years I was an elementary teacher and then principal. During this time in public schools, I earned a Masters Degree in School Administration. For the next 13 years I was a school administrator inside three Texas Prison Unit Schools for adult incarcerated men (called Windham School District). At my last unit, Dominguez State Jail Prison, I had the largest teaching staff in the system seeing 800 to 850 men in our classrooms on a daily basis. Team work, sharing common goals and leadership that inspires cooperation, devotion, and dedication is essential in the field of education, especially in a prison setting. As the Prison School Administrator I was responsible to various agencies in Texas State Government and to our school headquarters in Huntsville, Texas. I retired March 31, 2013.

Based on my varied life experiences, I would count it a privilege and honor to serve you as a member of St. Luke's Vestry, if so chosen.

John Hopper  
Years Attending: 26 Years  
Occupation: Supervisor – Wells Fargo home mortgage

What groups/Ministries of St. Luke's are you involved in?  
Lay Eucharistic, Verger, and Acolytes.

What do you love about St. Luke's?  
Saint Luke's has been my home since I was born. I love that everyone despite your age, race, or personal agenda, are always included. Saint Luke's also isn't just about our Church body they are about spreading God's word and love throughout the community.

What gifts or skills would you bring to vestry leadership?  
I love to make a connection with everyone, by doing so I can bring out the best in them, and in turn they bring out the best in me. I have fresh new ideas, love to work and am truly dedicated to God's vision.
Laura Salfen  
Years Attending: 8 Years  
Occupation: Development Associate and Database Coordinator at the San Antonio Symphony

What groups/Ministries of St. Luke’s are you involved in?  
My husband Kevin and I have been members of St. Luke’s Choir since 2011. I served on the most recent Rector Search Committee, Transition Ministry (as co-chair), and Stewardship Committee. I am currently serving on the Children and Youth Ministry Design Team.

What do you love about St. Luke’s?  
We were first drawn to St. Luke’s for the outstanding choir and music program, and I love being able to express my faith through music. St. Luke’s has been a wonderful spiritual home for my family, and I love that my son is growing up in such a welcoming and caring church community.

What gifts or skills would you bring to vestry leadership?  
I am detail-oriented, organized, and creative. My non-profit experience, creative background, and past/present committee service would support the work of the vestry. Most importantly, I am enthusiastic about St. Luke’s and optimistic about our future!

Heidi White  
Years Attending: 21 Years  
Occupation: Landscape Designer at Thomas Bradley & Associates, Inc.

What groups/Ministries of St. Luke’s are you involved in?  
I sing in the choir and am a member of the Friends of Music. I am a member of the Green Door Board of Directors and I am on the Design Team for Children and Youth. I also participate in Amigos dinners.

What do you love about St. Luke’s?  
I love the community at St. Luke’s. I also love the traditions and opportunities for outreach.

What gifts or skills would you bring to vestry leadership?  
I have experience in working with diverse groups within the parish as well as outside of church, in leadership positions as well as committees. I have been involved with the Christian Giving grant decisions for many years. I am a good listener, a team player and I look forward to a vibrant future at St. Luke’s
Children’s Ministries

Parents’ Night Out

Parents’ Night Out is offered on the first Friday of most months from 5:30 – 10:00 p.m. Parents may bring their children ages infant through 5th grade to our church childcare rooms where they will be cared for by St. Luke’s wonderful childcare staff. The cost is $20 per child ($50 maximum per family) for the evening.

Mark your calendar for the following PNO dates! You can find the registration form for all the following dates at www.slecsa.org/children-families

- February 7th
- March 6th
- April 3rd
- May 1st

Questions? Please contact Paula Guajardo – nursery@stlukes-sa.net

Vacation Bible School 2020 ~ Knights of North Castle
A Quest for the King’s Armor

It may be January, but plans are already under way for an amazing VBS this summer, so be sure to mark your calendars for the week of June 22-26!

This year’s theme takes kids ages 4 years through 5th to a frozen land on a quest for the king's armor, but the armor is not the kind they might first imagine. Kids will spend the week exploring the strength of God's power through scripture from both the Old and New Testaments. Through these scriptures kids will discover different pieces of protective armor—the Belt of Truth, the Breastplate of Justice, the Shoes of Peace, the Shield of Faith, and the Helmet of Salvation—at work in the lives of familiar Bible characters, and explore how that armor works in their own lives as they follow and serve God.

Junior & Senior High Youth may serve as “Teen Helpers” and registrations will begin in March! Our VBS Chairs this year are Xochitl Denton and Jenny Holshouser.

If you feel called to help with VBS in ANY capacity, please contact Suzanna Frey – suzannaf@stlukes-sa.net.
The Choir had another busy year with 51 Eucharists and 6 Evensongs, plus the Requiem, Advent Lessons & Carols, and Holy Week services. I’m very pleased that we get to sing (and sometimes premiere) new music which adds to the growing body of choral literature available to the Church at large.

This past summer we had the privilege of singing at Ripon Cathedral in North Yorkshire, England. The entire trip was magnificent from start to finish. The Choir was in excellent form, and the cathedral clergy were so welcoming and grateful for our presence during their own choir’s summer break. We had a fine group of fellow travelers and supporters which made for happy evenings at the local restaurants and pubs, and our choir members grew closer. The hotel was rather quirky (and very English) with creaking floors, mismatched wallpaper, ancient staff, and one morning I noticed a bucket in the middle of the hallway that was catching rain coming through the hole in the ceiling (right next to the light fitting.) Several evenings were spent sitting on the veranda at the back of the hotel as we watched folk making up the rules of croquet.

Another exciting thing was the arrival of three new Choral Interns: Peter, Klint and Mary (if only Klint had been named Paul instead...). Peter and Klint are studying at UIW and UTSA respectively, and Mary recently graduated from St. Mary’s University. These good folk contribute so much to the choral program at St. Luke’s, and I hope we provide something that enriches them in the process.

Every time I walk into the Choir Loft I pass the console to “the organ that never was.” It’s really quite a presence and so tantalizing yet heartbreaking at the same time. I desperately hope this new year will see progress on bringing a new organ to St. Luke’s which will inspire both the choir and congregation, and serve as a catalyst for our musical outreach. Several groups love to use the church because of our excellent acoustics, and it would be superb if we can consolidate these various opportunities into a formal series that we can present to San Antonio.

We are so grateful for your continued support.
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