

TIDINGS

SEPTEMBER
2021

a newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church and School

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A Faith-Filled Summer

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CLASSES FOR ALL AGES
BEGIN SEPTEMBER 19TH!



ST. LUKE'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL

TIDINGS

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Welcome TO THE BODY

Congratulations to those who have been baptized since June 2021!

Isabella West McNab

Chloe Martha Grace Westacott

George Wright Munoz

Clara Ann McMillan

For more information on being baptized or having your child baptized at St. Luke's, contact Ilya Franco, Administrative Assistant to the Clergy, at clergysec@stlukes-sa.net.



ST. LUKE'S
ALL PARISH
RETREAT

CAMP CAPERS

REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR
ST. LUKE'S ALL PARISH RETREAT!
PRESS PAUSE AND RECONNECT
WITH YOUR ST. LUKE'S FAMILY.



FOR MORE INFORMATION USE THE
QR CODE OR VISIT SLECSA.ORG.



REFRESH & ENGAGE

Parishioner Stories A FAITH-FILLED SUMMER!

ST. LUKE'S YOUTH AT HAPPENING!

I loved Happening #148. If you don't know what Happening is, it helps teens come together and grow deeper in their faith. This movement is truly extraordinary and the most exciting part is that it's all run by other teens, with some adult supervision of course. The best part of this whole experience to me was being able to meet amazing people and to create friendships that will probably last a lifetime. I urge anyone in high school that hasn't Happened, to do so because it will change your life.

Tori Foster

I had the pleasure of going to Happening #148 earlier this summer, and to say it was the best experience of my life would be an understatement. I've been looking forward to this weekend ever since my older sister, Claire, went years ago. I remember her coming home and her telling me that it changed her life. Happening was a place where I felt unconditional love from God and everyone around me. I've never felt my faith stronger and my relationship with God grow quicker than this weekend. I would encourage other teens in 10th, 11th, and 12th grade to attend a Happening weekend because it might change their life too!

Ella White



When I heard about Happening, I never knew what it truly was, and was so curious about what it was. I signed up last year for Happening, and my expectations were blown out the window. Happening is truly a blessing, and one every high schooler should experience first hand for themselves."

Logan Schrantz

Thank you for this opportunity to learn about our past. I pray that the events spotlighted in these readings will help us as we move into the coming years.

We are ALL GOD'S PEOPLE. HE made us in HIS image. He made us different from and alike one another for a reason. HE made us ALL with love and His Grace.

The prayers at the end of each reading are beautiful... particularly the ending Litany.

Judith Durbin Bessey

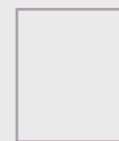
This Far by Faith

I loved This Far by Faith because I learned a lot about Texas history and I loved being with my family and bonding together.

Madeleine McCabe



A Pilgrimage Through
The Diocese of West Texas



THE PUBLIC PRAYER LIST

at St. Luke's Church

One of the features of our Sunday services is the Prayers of the People. The Book of Common Prayer provides forms for guiding the congregation in lifting up prayer concerns and thanksgivings. In addition to the specific prayers we offer every week – for our clergy, for example, and for elected officials and members of the Armed Forces – there is an opportunity to name people who desire the prayers of the Church. Prayer has the power to draw us closer to God and each other.

It is good when there are clear expectations regarding the Public Prayer List: the list of names that are recited during the church's worship services.

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS:

A person may ask for prayers for themselves or on behalf of someone else. **If someone requests prayers for someone else, the church assumes that the requester has gotten permission from the person for whom prayers are being solicited.**

Prayer requests may be submitted in various ways:

- Filling out a Connect Card on Sunday and placing the card in the Offertory Plate.
- Contacting the Administrative Assistant to the Clergy, Ilya Franco, at 210-828-6425 or clergysec@stlukes-sa.net.
- Submitting an online form through the church's website at slecsa.org/prayer-requests/

INFORMATION TO SUBMIT:

- Name (either first name or full name). Beginning in September, when someone submits a name for the Public Prayer List, unless you indicate otherwise, the whole name will be printed in the bulletin and read during the Prayers of the People.
- A general indication of what kind of prayers are desired (e.g. healing, comfort, guidance, protection). This will be listed in the bulletin. If you do not tell us what we should be praying for, we will simply offer general prayers.

- If you are requesting prayers for someone else, please tell us your name, too.

BOUNDARIES AND PRIVACY

Even someone who desires the prayers of others may not want to share specifics of their situation with others. Church staff and pastoral ministers are committed to respecting people's desires for privacy. Likewise, we assume church members will not be overzealous in seeking out details on someone for whom the church is praying.

DURATION OF PRAYERS:

- We generally keep someone on the Public Prayer List for four Sundays. If you would like to extend that time, contact the church again and submit a new prayer request. We generally do not keep someone on the prayer list indefinitely: circumstances change, and we think it's good to get regular updates on people who desire long-term prayers.

WHAT DO WE DO WITH THE PUBLIC PRAYER LIST?

We name the people on the Public Prayer List in the Prayers of the People during our Sunday celebrations of Holy Communion.

The Public Prayer List is printed in the bulletins for Sunday services. Individuals may take this list with them and pray for the people on the list in their private devotions.

Even on the occasional times when the Prayers of the People may not happen in a particular liturgy, the Public Prayer List will still be printed in the bulletin.

The Public Prayer List is shared regularly with the Daughters of the King (DoK), a women's group dedicated to prayer, service, and evangelism. Members of the DoK have their intercessory prayer list and they include the names on the church's Public Prayer List.

As it has been throughout history, our confidence today is that God receives our prayers and is generous and gracious in responding to them. Questions? Feel free to contact the Rev. Irv Cutter, rector@stlukes-sa.net.

From the RECTOR



HOME COMMUNION VISITS

One of the most meaningful ministries that the Church offers is home Communion visits, when someone from the church brings the Sacrament to someone who is homebound or who cannot get to church. This ministry was long the responsibility of the church's clergy, but for some time now laypeople have had the opportunity to be licensed to make these visits. What a wonderful way to stay connected to people whose circumstances keep them from coming to church.

Per diocesan expectations, we had to suspend home Communion visits at the beginning of the pandemic. The time has come, however, to resume this important ministry. Beginning in September, members

of St. Luke's Church who are licensed Eucharistic Visitors (LEV's, or simply EV's) will start making visits again to church members who cannot come to church.

We currently have eight Eucharistic Visitors, and I hope to build that team up, so that more people are able to share in this ministry. If you would like to receive a visit, or if you know of someone who would appreciate getting regular visits, I hope you'll contact me at 210-828-6425 or rector@stlukes-sa.net.

The pandemic has put such hard constraints on our ability to minister to one another and to the larger community. Home Communion visits are such an important aspect of our pastoral care ministries, and I'm excited about working with our Visitors as we tend to the pastoral needs of the congregation.

Irving Cutter +

THE REV. IRV CUTTER

Rector

rector@stlukes-sa.net

ADULT FORMATION

Rev. Reagan continues her maternity leave but she lined up some amazing classes taught by our very own parishioners! Thank you to who have stepped up to teach in her absence.

Beginning September 26th Steven Rodriguez will lead a class on accessing our spiritual gifts and how through those gifts we can be a blessing to the church

The more we focus in on thinking about what we enjoy doing and how those things can contribute to the kingdom of God and to our congregation that it brings so much more satisfaction to our lives."

- Steven Rodriguez

and to the world. This class will help bring awareness to the beauty of using your gifts to contribute to our congregation and how acting on the things you believe can grow and nourish your faith life.

They will be using Lifekeys Discovery Workbook: Discover Who You Are Paperback by Jane A. G. Kise (Author), David Stark (Author), Sandra Krebs Hirsh (Author). It can be purchased on Amazon for \$13.

Look for more fall Adult Formation class announcements in our weekly emails!



YOUNG (ISH) ADULT SMALL GROUP

Join our Young (ish) Adult Small Group on the 1st Tuesday of each month on Zoom, the start time varies but they will send out reminders via text! They also meet up in person every 3rd Tuesday of the month for Happy Hour! Email publish@stlukes-sa.net for more information!



CHRISTIAN FORMATION REGISTRATION

for 2021-2022 is open!

As we prepare for Sunday School, youth group, and other activities this Fall want to be sure we have the most updated information on your child(ren) and family. This will help us to welcome them into the appropriate Sunday School class, Youth Group, or childcare room. It will also allow us to be aware of any special needs (allergies, etc.) and keep you informed about upcoming events and activities.

So, whether your child has participated in St. Luke's Sunday School, Youth Group or childcare ministry before or whether you are coming for the first time, filling out this form is both helpful and appreciated!

Please take a few moments to fill out the registration form for the 2021-22 school year at www.slecsa.org/children-families/

CLASSES FOR ALL AGES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 19TH

REGISTER FOR ALL CLASSES BY USING THE QR CODE OR VISITING SLECSA.ORG.



WORSHIP 101 This class is open to all 4th-12th graders to learn all about the basics of worship during a service at St. Luke's and how we are all the body of Christ in practicing worship together.

There will be a component of acolyte training involved for those who are interested in serving on Sunday mornings or learning about what an acolyte is.

Whether your student(s) are interested in knowing more about specifics and meanings of worship in the church and/or becoming an acolyte, this class is an exciting opportunity to learn together! Class meets on September 19th, 26th and October 10th, 17th.

COMMUNION INSTRUCTION CLASS It is our tradition at St. Luke's to offer a special Sunday School series in Communion Instruction. This class is especially geared to first and second graders, but older elementary children are welcome as well. The class will meet on Sunday mornings in room 202 (2nd floor) during the regular Sunday School time (10 -10:45 a.m.) from Sept. 19 – Nov. 14.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES We offer Godly Play curriculum during our Sunday School time for Pre-K 3's-3rd Grade. Our 4th & 5th graders will have fun as they "Journey through the Bible" and during the fall we offer a 9-week Communion Instruction Class. Class times are 10:00am – 10:50am

- PK-3rd Godly Play: Room 201
- Communion Instruction Class: Room 202
- 4th and 5th Journey through the Bible: Room 219

MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASS This year will be all about making Connections. Connecting with peers. Connecting with the Bible in new ways. Connecting favorite bible stories to events of today. Connecting with the wider St Luke's family in meaningful ways. **PLEASE JOIN US SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24 AT 10 AM IN ROOM 215.**

YOUTH MINISTRIES



Director of Youth Ministries
SARAH@STLUKES-SA.NET



YOUTH GROUP BEGINS ON SEPTEMBER 22ND

We are back in the youth room this year on Wednesdays! The evenings will be filled with discussion, worship, and fellowship. Dinner will be served for middle and high school students at 7 pm on the sports court right outside the youth room. More information about drop-off & pickup coming soon.

PLEASE NOTE! The schedule for Wednesday nights has changed.

MIDDLE SCHOOL 6 - 7 pm
DINNER 7 - 7:30pm
HIGH SCHOOL 7:30 - 8:30pm

If your student(s) are interested in attending youth group this year, please fill out the Christian Formation Registration Form to let us know!

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

HIGH SCHOOL SUNDAY MORNING OPPORTUNITIES

For high school students, there are many ways to be involved on Sundays. Some of these include, acolyting, assisting with Sunday school & Godly Play classes, and service projects such as Under the Bridge!

SNACK PAK 4KIDS VOLUNTEERS OCTOBER 20TH

Please join us to assemble Snack Paks for the fall semester to help fight hunger for children. We are happy to welcome children ages 4 & up back to packing nights! Packing nights are scheduled for 90 minutes. We are a working warehouse and for the safety of young children, we ask that children ages 4-7 be accompanied by an adult at all times while in the warehouse and wear closed-toe shoes. Park in the lot adjacent to Belgium Lane and enter directly into the SP4KSA warehouse.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Jill S. Martinez at jillsmartinez@att.net

SUMMER RECAP

St. Luke's youth stayed busy this summer with movie night, game night, and Topgolf! We had such a blast gathering with Travis Park Church, University Presbyterian Church, and Forest Hills Presbyterian Church!



SIGN UP FOR ST. LUKE'S E-NEWS ON SLECSA.ORG/YOUTH TO GET THE LATEST UPDATES.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

WELCOME TO OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

We are excited to announce that Kris Spilker has joined St. Luke's Church as our next Director of Children and Family Ministries.



Kris brings great experience to this position. For the past few years, she has had a similar position at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, San Marcos. She has great experience directing children, family, and youth ministries as well as teaching creating/directing a PreK program for an independent school in Chicago called Daystar Academy.

She is a member of the Christian Formation Committee of the Diocese of West Texas, and in that capacity has worked with the Rev. Reagan Gonzalez and Suzanna Green.

Kris has a passion for children and families and will bring great energy to this position as she ensures that our children and families have the resources they need to thrive in the St. Luke's community.

With guidance from Suzanna, Kris and Fr. Irv are confident that the program year will get off to a great start, with Sunday school classes beginning on September 19. We hope you have the opportunity to meet Kris in the upcoming weeks!

CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

At St. Luke's we wholeheartedly encourage children to be in worship with their families. We believe children learn to worship within the community of faith; which includes all of us. We recognize that children might get the wiggles and feel the need to move about during worship; please know that is ok. To help you during these times, we have provided a "Kid's Corner" station in the Narthex. There you will find Children's Worship Folders, crayons, books and helpful tips. All that said, we understand that there are times when children need the opportunity to play, and so we offer childcare at all morning services for children 5 and under.

LEM MINISTRY

Kirk James had been involved with St. Luke's Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers (LEM) ministry for more than 20 years. He started as a team member on the Matthew Team around 2000. After serving as team leader for a few years he was asked by Victor Harding, the leader of the LEM Ministry, to take his place.

This February it was Kirk's turn to name his successor and he passed on the leadership role to Jill Martinez. "I knew she would be perfect in that role. Her passion for and dedication to the LEM ministry are so strong that I knew she was right person to take my place," he said. Jill has stepped in and has been a great leader of this important and wonderful ministry.

Kirk encourages anyone who is looking for an opportunity to serve St. Luke's to consider joining the LEM ministry! "It is one of the most meaningful ways a parishioner can serve God and His Church. Participating in the worship services through reading the lessons and the prayers, and serving the chalice at the altar, is truly an honor and a privilege. It nourishes the soul and lifts up the spirits of the person serving. It is both rewarding and humbling. And best of all, it brings the LEM closer to God and the parishioners he or she is serving. It is very much a servant ministry."

WE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR READERS! EMAIL JILL IF YOU WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION: JILLSMARTINEZ@ATT.NET

MUSIC AT ST. LUKE'S



Organist and Director
of Music
RUSSELLJ@STLUKES-SA.NET



I can empathize pretty strongly with Reagan in receiving the good news of a future Happy Event; the waiting (and waiting) period, and ultimate delivery of a new addition to the family. This particular gestation has been going on for about seven years with occasional labor pains scattered throughout. But the wait is almost over; it's just we aren't exactly sure of the due date!



A portion of the organ in the Reuter warehouse.

I'm talking about the new organ, of course. There are many moving parts involved with the entire process: the tonal design, building the organ, but also the dismantling of the old casework (though we used many of the pipes), architect drawings, asbestos abatement, reinforcing the balcony and metal fabrication, and physical installation. The last stage is voicing which is coupling the sound of the organ to the acoustics of the building and will happen over several months.

We're looking forward to having a delivery date when traditionally people are invited to help unload the organ from the truck. Hopefully we'll have local media to cover the event as this is part of the organ's debut to the community. Then we'll have a Dedication which is when the organ is set aside for God.



Maxime Patel, Saulieu



Jan Kraybill, Kansas



Alcée Chriss, PBS

Following the dedication will be the beginning of a new Arts Series. This will allow St. Luke's to present the organ to the community through celebrity artists and several other occasions that represent the Music Ministry of St. Luke's. These events are free (though we'll be happy to receive donations or offers to underwrite these concerts!) This is the schedule so far:

- Dedication Recital – Russell Jackson
November 28 at 3 PM, with Bishop Reed
- Skinny Messiah – G.F. Handel
December 5 at 3 PM, with St. Luke's Choir
- Texas Children's Choir "Christmas Concert"
Saturday, December 18 at 4 PM
- Maxime Patel – Celebrity Recital
January 23 at 3 PM – Saulieu Basilica, France
- Jan Kraybill – the Grammy Organist of the Kansas Symphony – March 6 at 3 PM
- IlluMen – Artists in Residence – spectacular men's choral group – April 24 at 3 PM
- Alcée Chriss – Winner, Montreal Organ Competition on PBS – May 8 at 3 PM

Please do join us for all these events; we wish to celebrate our musical good fortune, but we want to share it with you. See you soon!

AN UPDATE ON THE CHURCH'S FINANCES

from the Senior Warden and the Treasurer

Dear Friends,

Although the pandemic has taken its toll in so many ways, we at St. Luke's Church have much to be thankful for:

- Even with several staff transitions this year – retirements and moves – the staff remains committed to the church's mission and ministry.
- We continue to offer all of our regular services week after week, including the livestream which has allowed so many people to worship virtually.
- People in need are getting the resources they need, through supply drives like our annual back-to-school effort in support of Good Samaritan Ministries.
- And two of our most visible ministries, the Green Door and St. Luke's Episcopal School, are thriving.

The operating budget approved at the beginning of the year assumed life would get back to normal in the early part of the 2021. That, of course, has not happened. One of our key sources of revenue is the contributions that people are inspired to make when they come to church. **While we have digital attendance, due to continued pandemic concerns, fewer people are physically attending church services. We are now significantly under budget in those**

contributions. This is evident on the financial summary on the next page: Through July, we had budgeted \$116,667 in "Non-Pledged Gifts", but actual receipts were only \$56,936.

The work of the church goes on: staff members are committed to providing opportunities for worship, education, and fellowship, and we continue to make plans for outreach efforts that will make a difference in the lives of those in need. To support all that work, the revenue side of the church's budget needs to improve.

If you are able, **we hope you'll consider making a special contribution** to support the church's Operating Fund in this time when the church's finances are tight. Even though life doesn't look like it did a couple of years ago, St. Luke's Church continues to share the Light of Christ with San Antonio, and your financial support could make such a difference.

To make a contribution, you could mail a check to the church, use the "GIVE" button at the top of the church's website at slecsa.org, or use the QR Code below.

We hope you are well, and we're grateful for all the people who want St. Luke's to flourish in the days to come.

Sincerely,



David Schrantz
Senior Warden



Seth McCabe
Treasurer



FINANCIAL REPORT

The Finance Committee will provide a financial update with each issue of Tidings. This report shows the revenues received and expenditures for the Year-to-Date. If you have any questions, please contact the Treasurer, Seth McCabe or the Parish Administrator, Angie Hudgins at (210) 828-6425.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Statement of Activities - Operating Funds January 1, 2021 - July 31, 2021

	<i>Year-To-Date</i>		Annual Budget
	Actual 7/31/21	Budget 7/31/21	
Revenues			
<i>Contributions</i>			
Current year pledges	\$ 533,087	\$ 576,204	\$ 930,000
Nonpledged gifts	56,936	116,667	200,000
Loose plate offerings	4,908	8,750	15,000
Prior year pledges	440	3,000	3,000
Special offerings	2,175	2,500	7,500
Total Contributions	597,546	707,120	1,155,500
<i>Other Revenue</i>			
Endowment Trust Distribution	92,776	92,776	159,045
Fundraising Event (S. L. Live)	-	-	20,000
Interest and Other Income	27,129	14,485	26,117
Total Other Revenue	119,905	107,261	205,162
Total Revenues	717,451	814,381	1,360,662
Program and Operating Expense			
Personnel Costs	491,686	499,783	856,849
Diocesan Apportionment	129,647	129,647	222,252
Church Ministries	13,739	34,342	64,000
Administration and Operations	44,914	40,319	75,861
Church Building and Grounds	144,710	139,354	239,944
Interest on Long-term Debt	1,039	1,039	1,039
Total Program and Oprtg. Exp.	825,735	844,484	1,459,945
Income (loss) from ops.	\$ (108,284)	\$ (30,102)	\$ (99,283)

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ST. LUKE'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL

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