

TIDINGS

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

ADVENT
2021

ADVENT

A SEASON OF HOPE

IN THIS ISSUE

SLES DAY OF SERVICE
AT THE GREEN DOOR

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP
SERVICE SCHEDULE

CONSECRATION
SUNDAY UPDATE!



ST. LUKE'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL

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Welcome TO THE BODY

Congratulations to those who have been
baptized since September 2021!

Foster Louis Kissling (*bottom right photo*)

June Evans Halliday

Charlotte Lynn Berry (*top right photo*)

August Hall

Sam Hall

Ana Paulina Ramos Lorenz

Santiago Josue Ramos Lorenz

Thomas John Saunders

Preston Wallace Saunders

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



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR

Communion Class

From the RECTOR



A THANKSGIVING MESSAGE

As you may know, many churches have traditions of special services at Thanksgiving. In Tulsa we had a service on Thanksgiving Day at 10 am, with choir and hymns, and the church was full every year, and many people would stay afterwards to enjoy a potluck Thanksgiving dinner.

When I arrived here in 2019, I was surprised to learn that we don't have any service here on Thanksgiving Day, or the night before Thanksgiving. Maybe it's because so many schools have the whole week off. I remember wanting to explore the possibility of a Thanksgiving service here at St. Luke's. Covid got in the way last year. But as we hope for continued improvements in the pandemic, and as we make plans for 2022, I will certainly want to consider commemorating Thanksgiving somehow at St. Luke's.

The Thanksgiving holiday is a time to remember our blessings, and not just to be thankful for them, but to give thanks for them: to give thanks to God, who is the source of all mercies and blessings.

I give thanks to God for the many blessings I enjoy personally: the good health of my family, the great educations our children are receiving, and the privileges we enjoy as American citizens. I give thanks also for the blessings all of us enjoy here at St. Luke's. So many people devote their energies to the church's ministries, giving of their time and their financial resources. I'm thankful for our dedicated staff who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in so many ways this year, and I'm thankful for gracious volunteers and for people who offer their voices (in person and online!) as together we worship God in church.

I give thanks to each of you for your generous hearts. And I give thanks to God, who has brought us all together here at St. Luke's Church and School. God delights in the praises we lift up together in our worship, and God delights especially in the many ways we support God's mission of sharing with the world Good News about Jesus Christ.

Maybe you're reading this before Thanksgiving, or afterwards, as we set our sights on Christmas. Either way, I hope you'll set aside some time to reflect on the blessings you enjoy, and to give thanks to our loving God, who invites us to accept the gift of new life, made available through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Irving Cutter +

THE REV. IRV CUTTER

Rector

rector@stlukes-sa.net

From the ASSOCIATE



GREETINGS ST. LUKE'S!

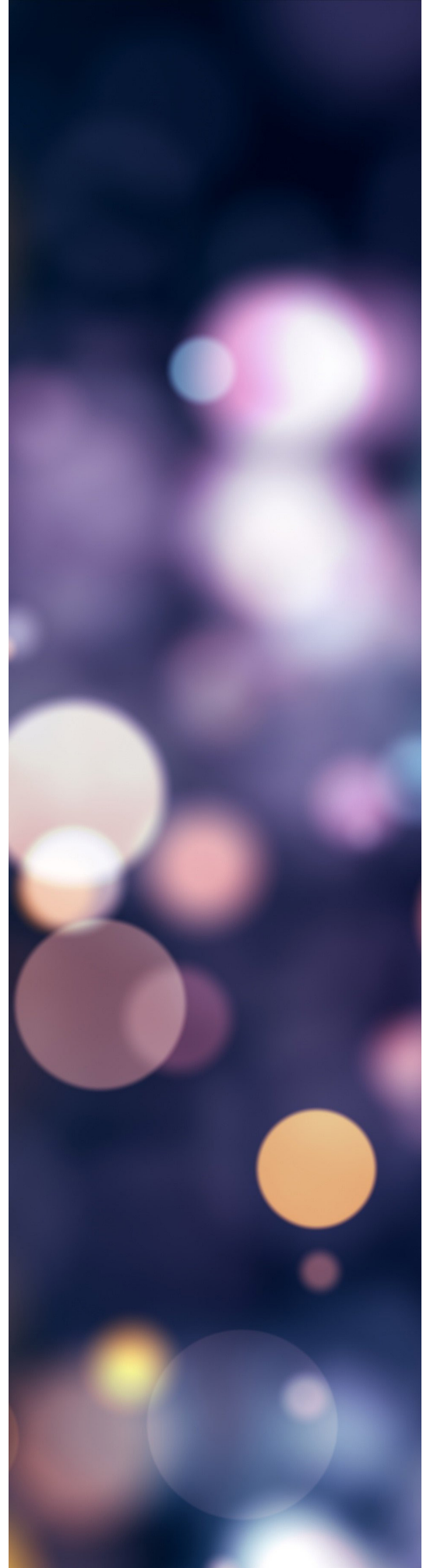
I am back from maternity leave and filled with gladness to share the Advent and Christmas seasons with you. We have many ways for you to enter the quiet and reflective season of waiting, and I hope you will join us. As we say in Godly Play, "this time of year you will see people hurrying around, buying things, and doing this and that. But they will miss the mystery. Maybe they don't know how to get ready or maybe they just forgot."

I hope that you will take the time to savor the mystery of Christmas, and rest in the richness of this season alongside your church family. I look forward to walking to Bethlehem with you.

I am in the office Tuesday - Friday and am happy to meet with you on or off-campus to get to know you better, to talk about the serious or the holy ordinary things in your life.

I hope to see you around soon!

Rev. Reagan





GREEN DOOR & ST. LUKE'S SCHOOL

Day of Service

The 8th-grade students of St. Luke's Episcopal School spent the day at the Green Door for their Day of Service on November 12th. SLES families contributed more than 100 bags of donations throughout the week. A group of students worked with our Green Door volunteers to tag and price, and input their donations into the computer.

Other students helped prepare the shop for the holidays and build Christmas displays. "It takes many hands to operate the Green Door. Their helpfulness, energy, and smiles made our day!" said Cynthia Rodriguez, Manager of the Green Door.

Bonnie Giddens, Green Door Board member, was on hand to help and is hopeful the students will contribute their ideas to help with merchandising and social media ideas and for their service projects with other organizations.

"St. Luke's Episcopal School is grateful for the opportunity for their students to give back to their community and for the special relationship established with this incredible ministry. We look forward to serving at The Green Door again in 2022," said Sarah Kates, SLES Chaplain. If you haven't stopped into the Green Door they are located at 1030 Nacogdoches Rd. Stop by and say hello, shop, donate, or inquire about helping as a Green Door Volunteer.

Thank you for making a difference and supporting our mission of Christian Giving.



GREEN DOOR THRIFT SHOP HOLIDAY HOURS AND CLOSURES

The Green Door will have extended Holiday Hours on December 4th, 11th, 18th. They will stay open until 2 pm on Saturdays to allow for more shopping time!

The Green Door will be closed for the Christmas holidays, December 21 - January 4, 2022. Donations are accepted by appointment when the store is closed for the Holidays. Send appointment request by email to: greendoorslsa@gmail.com with the subject title: Donations Drop off.

YOUTH MINISTRIES



Director of
Youth Ministries
HANNAHB@STLUKES-SA.NET



My first month serving as youth director here at St. Luke's has been full of fun, laughter, and learning. I would like to thank everyone who has been so kind and welcoming. I cannot wait to see what the future holds. Although small, we have had a consistent group meeting weekly for both middle and high school students. If you have a student who is hesitant to attend a youth event for fear that they will be alone, please ease their fears with this information and also tell them we offer free snacks!

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group is still meeting on Wednesday evenings. The typical schedule is as follows:

- Middle School meets from 6-7 pm
- Group meal on the sports court from 7-7:30 pm,
- High School meets from 7:30-8:30 pm.

On Sunday mornings we currently offer 2 different faith formation classes that go from 10-10:50 am. The Middle School class led by Andrea Cutter meets upstairs, while the High School class meets in the youth room.



FUN EVENTS

December 11th: Youth Group Hike If the weather stays this lovely, all youth are invited to come on a hike at Friedrich Wilderness Park to spend time in God's beautiful nature. Sign up for our Youth Newsletter for updates on this event!

SERVICE EVENTS

December 8th: Youth will not meet to allow students to attend a SnackPak4Kids service event. There are a limited number of spots, so if you have a child who is interested in attending, please email me so I can add your name to the list!

**SIGN UP FOR ST. LUKE'S E-NEWS ON [SLECSA.ORG/YOUTH](https://slecsa.org/youth)
TO GET THE LATEST UPDATES.**



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

During our Ministry Architects Summit in October, I was impressed and inspired by the intentionality and spirit of our conversations. Clearly, St. Luke's cares deeply for the children in our church body. We are committed to nurturing their faith and celebrating milestones as they grow and mature. Over the next few months, you will hear more in-depth and see what is essentially a road map showing how the faith journey of St. Luke's children is supported throughout their years.

As this fall flies by, I want to thank our Sunday School Teachers for all they do to foster an engaging environment. These sacred spaces inspire children to ask questions, wonder, and express their faith in a variety of ways. Comments I have heard from children include, "I want to stay here for another hour, okay? Let's just stay here!" "Mom! We heard a story today that was in a little sandbox, but really it was the desert!" Children get to experience storytelling and make connections to their own life each time they come.

At the moment, while we have fantastic volunteers in place, there are some who were not able to teach or volunteer as planned for various reasons. In order to have



two safeguarded volunteers with a group of children or youth at all times, we need to gather more volunteers. Please prayerfully consider teaching or assisting. Often, the phrase time, talent, and treasure is expressed in the context of stewardship. Volunteering to teach or lead children and youth comes under the umbrella of all of these areas as well!

Time - Signing up to teach or assist on Sunday mornings twice a month involves slightly over two hours per month. Curriculum and supplies are prepped and already in place.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

All Children are invited to tell this incredible story! When children share the story of the birth of Jesus, something memorable happens. On December 19th, during our 11 am service, we will have our Christmas Pageant. Plans this year are for the pageant to be in person and live-streamed before our 11 am worship service.

Parents look for an email with more details including available parts by age group. Parts will be chosen in person during Sunday school classes on December 5th. Dress rehearsal will be held on December 18th from 9:30 – 11 am.

If you would like your child to participate please email Kris! You can watch last year's video at slecsa.org/tidings.

Talent - It does help if you have experience with children and youth, but we are not looking for “experts”. Approaching the relationships you will be building by volunteering with a spirit of mutual learning inspires a love for learning and curiosity. We want all ages to be comfortable in asking questions expressing their faith in a variety of ways.

My call towards ministry and education was partly inspired by my parent’s involvement in leading our youth group during a leadership transition. Neither of them considered themselves an expert in teaching bible. Instead, they stepped up to lead our group with an attitude that we would all learn together.

My sisters and I had been going to Sunday school classes throughout our childhood, but somehow we just didn’t talk as a family about what we learned. Once Mom and Dad started to teach, their transparency and open-ended questions sparked conversations about God and how He was alive and well in our world. As a family, we got more engaged in serving our community through our church. It was truly a turning point that shaped my future.

Treasure - What do you treasure? Volunteering to guide

our children and youth in their faith journey is ... at the risk of sounding like an old Master Card commercial ... priceless. All ages are learning to express their experience with God. Teaching is truly a mutual blessing. We, in turn, experience God through the children’s perspective and wondering. In a future article, I may talk more about how much we can learn from children! During a time in our collective lives that shows how interconnected and fragile we are, children teach us how to be mindful - to be in the present moment, noticing details, tuning in with all senses. On Sundays, I do my best to be stationed either at the kids' corner in the Narthex or in the parlor between services. I would love to tell you more about other volunteer opportunities, our classes, and upcoming events. Please don't hesitate to look for me as I am eager to connect with all of you! In the meantime, I am contacting each family over the phone as able.

As we ease into safely gathering on Sundays, I am curious to hear about your hopes, dreams, and concerns for your children’s spiritual and social needs.

I hope to see you soon!



Director of Children and Family Ministries
KRISTINES@STLUKES-SA.NET

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Kris and Hannah are sending out a call to all those interested in volunteering with the children or youth ministries. Volunteers are a critical part of the services and events we offer for the kids here at St. Luke’s. If you or yourself would be interested in volunteering please contact Hannah or Kris.



MUSIC AT ST. LUKE'S



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

Handel's SKINNY *Messiah*

Advent is always my favorite season; I think it's because of the anticipation or a feeling of hope. I decided to leave the cathedral in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania for two reasons: one, I'd been there for twenty years and didn't see myself in that position for another fifteen; and two, because I'd directed Handel's Messiah for nineteen straight seasons (plus all the other performances during my career) and couldn't face another.



However, being the conundrum I am, we're doing a performance here. Most folk associate Messiah with Christmas, which is just a small section of the three sections. Many conductors pride themselves in blindly performing every single number (even worse, with period instruments) which is going to steal about three hours of your life. It's rather like going to a Wagner (whom I adore) opera and spending six hours to hear two tunes. Not every number is worth

it! So we're doing the "good bits." A Skinny Messiah as I like to think of it.

We have the incredible Chia-Wei Lee singing baritone, and our own wonderful choir members singing the rest of the solos: Valerie Jeannin, Mary Moipei, Christiana Davis, and Andrew Tucker. It's on Sunday, December 5 at 3 pm. Come along, and you'll get ten minutes off Purgatory.

CHRISTMAS EVE

If our Choir wasn't busy enough they're singing a couple of fantastic pieces for the Christmas Eve services: John Goss' "See amid the winter's snow" (remember last year's storm?) and Francis Poulenc's "O magnum mysterium". The Goss is a traditional English carol with a spectacular treatment from David Willcocks – the King of Christmas – while the Poulenc is one of those mystical, impressionistic landscapes where the singer is expected to look at a note (any note) and sing it rather than just head to the bar. We'll be joined by Avanti Strings, and Christmas will come again. Services are at 4, 7, and 10 pm.

ADULT FORMATION



ADVENT CLASS: THE PROPHET ISIAH



We will explore what biblical prophecy is (and is not), learn about the three prophet Isiah's the contributed to the book of Isiah, and reflect on the passages of scripture from Isaiah that we hear on Sunday mornings during Advent.

We will meet at 10 am beginning the December 5th, the 2nd week of Advent. On Advent I please join us in the Parish Hall for Advent Wreath Making, and intergenerational event!

TEACHER THANK YOU

Thank you to Katherine Hampsten, Steven Rodriguez, and Bryan Gonzalez for leading adult Sunday school classes this fall. Katherine led a wonderful class on communication and our faith, Steven led a class on spiritual gifts, and Bryan led a class on the history of social justice in the Episcopal Church. Each teacher and class was a gift to our congregation. Thank you!

Rev. Reagan and Fr. Irv also want to remind the good people of St. Luke's that you do not have to be ordained or an expert in theology to teach a class!

Every person is a minister, and everyone has gifts to share. If you have a subject area you feel passionate about, or perhaps you like to teach, but don't know where to start, then God might be calling you to teach a class for adults here at St. Luke's! We welcome diverse topics and teaching styles.



Katherine Hampsten,
Steven Rodriguez,
and Bryan Gonzalez



CONTACT REV. REAGAN IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT HER ADVENT CLASS OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF OFFERING A CLASS ON SUNDAY MORNINGS.

Associate Rector
REAGANG@STLUKES-SA.NET



CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST. LUKE'S

Wednesday, December 22 **Blue Christmas**

Join us on Wednesday, December 22, at 4:30 pm and bring your cares and burdens with you with an open your heart to receive God's comforting spirit. "Blue Christmas" services honors our grief and sorrows, offers the consolation of God's presence and love, and invites us to depart with the joy that comes from memory and a sense of shared peace.

Friday, December 24 **Christmas Eve**

- **4 PM** - A service with hymns led by the organ and contemporary songs during the distribution of Communion.
- **7 pm** - A traditional service with organ, hymns, choir, and Avanti strings.
- **10 pm** - A traditional service with organ, hymns, choir, and Avanti Strings.

Saturday, December 25 **Christmas Day**

- **10 am** - A traditional service with organ and hymns.

Sunday, December 26 **First Sunday after Christmas Day** Regular Sunday Schedule:

- **8 am**, with hymns
- **9 am**, with contemporary music
- **11 am**, with hymns (no choir)
- **6 pm**, spoken service

Sunday, January 2 **Second Sunday after Christmas Day** Regular Sunday Schedule:

- **8 am**, with hymns
- **9 am**, with contemporary music
- **11 am**, with hymns and choir
- **6 pm**, spoken service

ST. FRANCIS SOCIETY CHRISMONS It's a great time to start your Chrismon collection or to add to your existing collection this year by visiting the St. Francis Guild in the Narthex December 5, 12, 19 after all services!

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS Sponsor a poinsettia plant that will decorate the altar and chancel areas this Christmas season for a donation of \$20. These gifts make beautiful memorials, thanksgiving offerings, or celebrations of friends or family members. Your name and dedication will be printed in the Christmas bulletins. Envelopes are located in the Narthex and you can purchase on our website, slecsa.org/tidings.

MINISTRY NEWS

JOIN OUR HOLY STROLLERS AND OUR MONDAY MOMS GROUP FOR A HAPPY HOUR ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8TH FROM 5-7 PM AT IDA CLAIRE.

MONDAY MOM'S GROUP

St. Luke's Monday Moms Group last meeting for the Fall will be December 13 at Corner Bakery. Join them for friendship, fellowship, coffee talk, and book discussions. Meetings are on Mondays from 9 – 11 am in the church Parlor. Breakfast and childcare* is provided. Friends, neighbors, and non-members welcome!

** There won't be any child care available for the 12/13 meeting.*

HOLY STROLLERS

Our Holy Strollers ministry is for families with little ones from birth to Kinder. Our mission is to bring families together through our mutual bond of parenthood & lift up the JOY of being a family! If you are an expectant parent, have a baby, toddler, or preschooler then YOU are a Holy Stroller! To connect with this group sign up for their email list at slecsa.org/children-families. to sign up for their newsletter.

ST. LUKE'S LUNCH BUNCH

Tuesday, December 7
12 - 1:30 pm in the Parlors

Russell Jackson will demonstrate the new French-style organ, what that title means, and the various sounds it makes. The previous organ was in Dutch Baroque style, but the French romantic/symphonic is designed to be warm and colorful, particularly good for church accompaniment, as well as representing the most exciting school of organ music. Bring questions!

Box lunch will be served.
Cost is \$10 per person.

Please sign up on the bulletin board by the kitchenette in the main hallway, email Jane Fleischer at sunflower@swbell.net or call the church office at 210-828-6425 to sign up.

UNDER THE BRIDGE

Join our Under the Bridge ministry on Sunday, December 5th, to help make and deliver sandwiches. The Wrights are leading the efforts on organizing and delivering on Sundays. They are in need of 1 family to make sandwiches at home and 4 - 5 people to pack bags and deliver at 10 am on Sunday, December 5th.

If you would like to sign up to make sandwiches or help the Wrights pack up and deliver please visit slecsa.org/outreach-opportunities. You will be able to reserve your spot and download Sandwich Making Instructions and shopping list.

**We ask that all delivery volunteers be 18 and older.*

CONSECRATION SUNDAY UPDATE

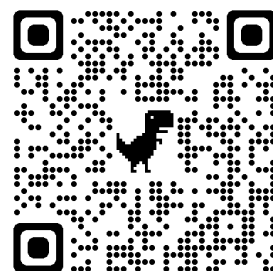
Thank you to everyone who joined us for Consecration Sunday!

We had 104 pledges, including 17 new pledges, for a total of \$612,448 pledged!

It was wonderful to see so many of you step up and make your 2022 pledge to give generously, attend regularly, and serve joyfully to St. Luke's ministries! If you have not made your pledge there is still time! There are many ways to give this year!

- Use our QR Code.
- Contact Angie Hudgins, our Parish Administrator, at 210-828-6425.
- Pick up a Pledge Card in the Narthex and return it in the Offering plate.
- Give Online at slecsa.org

Thank you for supporting St. Luke's!



COMMUNICATION UPDATE!

LIVESTREAM: WHERE TO WATCH

We have made significant upgrades to our Livestream over the past month to ensure a better viewing experience for you! Thank you to our loyal Livestreamers for hanging in there with us as we worked through our technical issues. As the choir and I settle back into the Choir Loft we are still finessing camera placements so look for new angles in the coming weeks.

Did you know you can find us on YouTube? We post videos of our sermons, services, and all the other videos we make on our St. Luke's Channel! You find the direct link to our channel at slecsa.org/tidings. If you visit us on YouTube, Facebook, or Instagram make sure to hit subscribe to stay up to date on our postings!

We look forward to bringing the Christmas Pageant to you Live this year as well as our Christmas Eve service at 7:00 pm. If you are traveling during the holidays you will still be able to celebrate the season with your family at home and your St. Luke's Family.

If you have suggestions for what you would like to see on our social media channels, website, or in your inbox please email them to andreat@stlukes-sa.net!

GIVING TUESDAY

Giving Tuesday is right around the corner! This year we are collecting funds and food for our Little Food Pantry.

More people use our pantry during the winter months and we want to ensure we can keep it stocked for those in need.

Watch slecsa.org, our Facebook and Instagram pages on #GivingTuesday for donation information!

For those of you who would like to make food donations we will also have collection bins in the Narthex on Sunday December 5th!

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 - October 31, 2021

	<i>Year-To-Date</i>		
	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Annual</i>
	<i>10/31/21</i>	<i>10/31/21</i>	<i>Budget</i>
Revenues			
<i>Contributions</i>			
Current year pledges	\$ 731,771	\$ 766,174	\$ 930,000
Nonpledged gifts	108,057	166,667	200,000
Loose plate offerings	10,777	12,500	15,000
Prior year pledges	5,823	3,000	3,000
Special offerings	2,175	2,500	7,500
<i>Total Contributions</i>	858,603	950,841	1,155,500
<i>Other Revenue</i>			
Endowment Trust Distribution	132,537	132,537	159,045
Fundraising Event (S. L. Live)	-	20,000	20,000
Interest and Other Income	33,919	19,570	26,117
<i>Other Revenue</i>	166,456	172,107	205,162
Total Revenues	1,025,059	1,122,948	1,360,662
Program and Operating Expense			
Personnel Costs	668,432	712,257	856,849
Diocesan Apportionment	185,210	185,210	222,252
Church Ministries	20,188	52,017	64,000
Administration and Operations	71,844	65,344	75,861
Church Building and Grounds	206,963	198,865	238,906
Interest on Long-term Debt	1,039	1,039	1,039
Total Program and Oprtg. Exp.	1,153,676	1,214,732	1,458,906
Income (loss) from ops.	\$ (128,617)	\$ (91,784)	\$ (98,245)

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ST. LUKE'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL

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