

TIDINGS

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

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ANNUAL MEETING
VESTRY NOMINEES
BISHOP COADJUTOR



ST. LUKE'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL

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Upcoming Baptism Dates

February 5

April 8 - Easter Vigil

March - no baptisms in Lent

May 21 - Bishop's Visit

May 28 - Pentecost

July 2

August 6 - Transfiguration

We have a Sunday set aside each month to celebrate the sacrament of baptism. For more information on being baptized or having your child baptized at St. Luke's, contact Sara Spreen at (210) 828-6425 or email saras@stlukes-sa.net.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY BAPTIZED!



In December and January we welcomed new members into the St. Luke's family through the sacrament of baptism! Welcome!

Abigail Ann Luna

Mateo Antonio Cavazos

Tatum Elizabeth McCullough



FROM THE RECTOR



What a difference a year makes.

You may remember the beginning of 2022 – we had just gotten through the Christmas season, and then we entered the Omicron phase of the Covid pandemic. So much of the good momentum that we had built towards the end of 2021 dissipated, as people chose again to embrace social distancing and reduce the time they spent out in public, and at church.

Now, a year later, in many ways it feels like the pandemic is behind us. Thanks to vaccines, most people who test positive for Covid now seem to have mild cases, and it really seems to be more of an inconvenience rather than a danger.

We at St. Luke's Church again find ourselves in a time of good momentum. Sunday attendance for 2022 was significantly higher than for 2021. We're tracking participation in many of the church's classes and activities, and it's all very healthy. So I see lots of good signs on the hilltop these days, signs that point to our community recovering in remarkable ways.

There are still many people and families who are not participating as they were before the pandemic. Some are still cautious about being around others, and others have drifted away for various reasons. I hope soon they'll feel comfortable again about re-engaging in the life of the congregation. If you're in either of those two categories, as you read this issue of "Tidings" and see all that's going on at St. Luke's these days, maybe you'll be inspired to come back and get involved again. We miss you! And we'd love to welcome you back.

For those of you who are active: as you visit with friends who haven't been back in a while, I hope you'll encourage them to come back. You can remind them all the good that's going on, pointing out the number of new people who are adding to our congregation's vitality.

Particular things about this year that I'm excited about:

- The newly renovated nursery. Our nursery staff and the refreshed space have been a big draw for young families. Several new families have become active in recent months and appreciate having the nursery available on Sunday mornings.
- The good energy in the Youth Group. Bryan Gonzalez is working with a great contingent of middle and senior high students. He's developing a program that is nurturing our young people spiritually and fostering a deep sense of community.
- Our new chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, which will serve as the umbrella group supporting and nurturing current and new ministries for the men of the congregation.
- My seminary classmate, the Very Rev. Kate Moorehead Carroll, coming to San Antonio in March. She is a strong leader of the church she serves, St. John's Cathedral in Jacksonville, FL, and I know that people will enjoy participating in the retreat she'll lead at St. Luke's on Saturday, March 4. (Read more on p. 9)

Enjoy this issue of Tidings, and join us as we worship God and serve the Lord's purposes in this corner of the Kingdom.

See you soon,
IRV ✓ +

UPCOMING DATES:
SHROVE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21
ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

THE REV. IRV CUTTER, RECTOR
RECTOR@STLUKES-SA.NET

ANNUAL MEETING 2023

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 12:30 PM

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held after the 11:00 am service on Sunday, January 29. As we do every year, we will look at the church's budget for the year, elect new vestry members, look back on the past year's successes, and look forward to our plans in 2023. We are grateful to the nominating committee who put together this year's slate of five Vestry nominees. Likewise, we honor the commitment made to St. Luke's by each member of the slate. The work of the Vestry is no small task and we are honored in turn by their generosity.

2023 VESTRY NOMINEES



ANA COTTON

Years attending St. Luke's: 15

Occupation: Educator – Teacher, Administrator and Consultant

What groups or Ministries of St. Luke's are you involved with?

I have been involved in several groups and ministries throughout the years at St. Luke's. These include serving in LEM's, teaching Sunday School (4th/5th grade class), participating as a member of the Search Committee for a new priest (Father Irv), assisting with the Advent Event, providing sandwiches for Under the Bridge Ministry, assisting with the Seder Supper, participating in small group dinners, Lenten dinners, adult formation classes, and in the Amigos dinners.

What do you love about St. Luke's?

I love that St. Luke's is inclusive of all! I felt welcome from the beginning. I also really love the variety of services offered along with the liturgy. Our family history at St. Luke's has a special connection for me as well.

What gifts or skills would you bring to vestry leadership

My skills include being a creative problem solver, my organizational skills, working as team member, and being able to see the big picture in situations.



LEITA HATCHER

Years attending St. Luke's: 6

Occupation: Business manager for a farmland real estate investment firm

What groups or Ministries of St. Luke's are involved with?

Upon joining St. Luke's in 2016, I was enamored with the diverse ministries and formation opportunities St. Luke's has offered the community. And I quickly realized these offerings are an extension of the compassionate parishioners and staff. I began to find small ways where I could offer my own time in aiding some of these ministries.

Over the years, I have volunteered in formation events, outreach services, and children & youth ministries. Currently, I am involved in outreach services and the development of small group formation programs, with Kris Spilker (Family art night & women's book club).

What do you love about St. Luke's?

I was raised in the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas; baptized, and confirmed at St. Alban's Church in Harlingen, TX. Discovering St. Luke's was like "coming home" for me, at a time when I truly needed my home and family. Recently divorced and distanced from all my blood relatives and family, I was restarting my life in San Antonio as a single, working mom. I would describe myself as a timid participant at St. Luke's in late 2015, but appreciated the grace extended to myself and my children in a welcome invitation to be as we are.

My love for St. Luke's began with that first embrace and has grown immensely over the years. I love the warm parish community, the diverse community, the pastoral leadership, and the multitude of formation opportunities to nurture my journey in faith and stewardship.

What gifts or skills would you bring to vestry leadership?

My professional work in business and asset management has developed my resourcefulness and organizational skills; as well as allowing me opportunities to facilitate solutions to challenging interpersonal situations. As a lifelong Episcopalian, I have experience in observing the workings of many different congregations. And as a mom, I have developed the gifts of humor, patience, and empathy. If I can help continue St. Luke's welcoming, encouraging presence in the greater community by serving on the vestry, I would be deeply honored and humbled.



JOHN HOPPER

Years attending St. Luke's: All my life

Occupation: Collections Supervisor — Pentagon Federal Credit Union

What groups or Ministries of St. Luke's are involved with?

I am currently a Verger, and am envolved with the Acolytes and the Lay Eucharistic Ministry

What do you love about St. Luke's?

I have always loved Saint Luke's inclusivity, charitable outreach, and familiy unity.

What gifts or skills would you bring to vestry leadership?

Being from a younger generation, I feel I can bring fresh ideas to the Vestry as well as technological advancements. I love the direction Saint Lukes is going in and feel that I can be a asset in making sure we achive our goals.



GRIFFIN KISSLING

My name is Griffin Kissling. I was born and raised in San Antonio and in the Episcopal Church. I studied economics and business at the University of Texas at Austin where I graduated in 2016. I've worked in construction since graduating and I currently work as a Project Manager for a local general contractor. My wife and I began attending St. Luke's Episcopal Church in 2017 when I was invited to help lead worship music with the contemporary musicians. In the past, I've served to further God's Kingdom primarily as a musician and as a staff member at multiple DWTX summer camps, and I'm looking forward to serving in a new capacity as a vestry member. I hope to keep the campus of St. Luke's beautiful and functional, ensure improvements are fiscally reasonable and responsible and show that St. Luke's excels as a welcoming, joyful place of worship.



DAN PFEIL

When Father Cutter asked me to consider being on the St. Luke's Vestry I was really very surprised. I have been involved in service projects around the Church for a number of years but never considered myself being on the Vestry.

I have been attending the 8:00 o'clock service since 2008. I started ushering at that service shortly afterwards, that's when Olive Gaskins drafted me to assist with the Under the Bridge ministry. I even dyed Easter Eggs for Her.

I have been associated with St. Luke's Episcopal Church and School since the mid 1980's, my four children all attended St. Luke's School. During my tenure on the St. Luke's School Board of Trustees I was able to bring the Head of NASA Education Services and several other NASA Educators to the School. I was the head of SLES Outdoor School program for six years and brought Scouting back to St. Luke's in the early '90's by moving Cub Scout Pack 275 and Boy Scout Troop 80 here.

I owned and operated a successful wholesale business for 29 years and closed it in 2004 in order to take care of my aging Parents.

St. Luke's Church and School is a wonderful community coming together to worship God in a beautiful, peaceful sanctuary. I hope that everyone who attends worship at St. Luke's feels as welcome as I always have.

BUDGET FORUM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 10:00 AM

The Treasurer will present the Operating Budget for 2023, as approved by the Finance Committee. We will look at our anticipated sources of income and get an overview of how that income will fund the church's mission and ministries. Meeting in the parlor.



FROM THE ASSOCIATE RECTOR



ASSOCIATE RECTOR
REAGANG@STLUKES-SA.NET

Living in this time of Epiphanytide is full of contradictions. Within the earth's biological clock we're still in the heart of winter. The days are shorter, with the sun rising late and setting early, the biting chill of the wind can be felt in the early morning hours, and wildlife, like birds and squirrels, are foraging daily or rationing through their stored food supply. Yet, we in the church are claiming God's light and revelation to the world. The Magi's wandering was not in vain, they found the Christ Child, as they do every year, under the blaze of the wild star. The whole world has been invited to see Christ's revealing identity as the Messiah, and we Christians have been invited to both receive this light and to be heralds of it for others.

Rather than claim that our work is to shine light into the darkness, an attempt at putting behind us all the scarcity and winter desolation we see and feel around us, perhaps we are called to walk alongside it. Just as the Magi did, perhaps our work is to walk through this world trusting that we can hold two things together at the same time, light and darkness, the wild star and gloomy wilderness wandering. I believe Epiphanytide is here to teach us that God is in both, and that like that of a mother and child, we will be cradled through the joys and trials of each.

This image isn't too far away from where St. Luke's is at this moment. Like any and all mainline churches we've been wandering for a few years now, following a star as we waded through covid-tide, the natural life cycles of ministries, and changes in staff, vestry, and lay leaders. We haven't been in complete wilderness, however. We've found that infant Christ Child on more than one occasion. Every time we worship together, gather to share a meal or to fellowship, every time the brow of a new sibling in Christ has been marked with the Holy Spirit, or we've dried the tears of our friends and family as we've said the commendation at a funeral, Christ has been there.

So, this year, rather than trying to get back to a life that no longer exists and rather than only working towards a future that is comfortable and all joy, I hope we can continue to hold each other close and walk together knowing that light and darkness will always coexist. I hope we will continue to trust that we can lean into God's goodness, knowing that as wandering Magi-pilgrims, we will always have light before us, darkness behind us, and the Christ who holds both in unity right in the center with us.

Love and prayers,

Reagan+

FOR INFORMATION ON OUR ONGOING WEEKLY STUDY
GROUPS VISIT [SLECSA.ORG/ADULT-FORMATION](https://www.slecsa.org/adult-formation)

LENTEN RETREAT

VITAL SIGNS OF FAITH: LEARNING HOW TO NURTURE YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE

Save the Date: Saturday, March 4 at St. Luke's

A Lenten Retreat with the Very Rev. Kate Moorehead Carroll, co-sponsored by St. Luke's Episcopal Church and St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Americans know how to care for our physical bodies. We know to go to the doctor, how to exercise and eat right. But how do we care for ourselves spiritually? Join Dean Kate as she guides you through an exploration of what it looks like for you to be spiritually healthy. What is the best way for you to pray given your nature? How do you find spiritual fulfillment and how can you best discern God's will for your life? This retreat will give you the tools to care for yourself in new and exciting ways.



The Very Rev. Kate Moorehead Carroll is the 10th Dean of St. John's Cathedral, Jacksonville, Florida. Kate is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Vassar College, a Carpenter Scholar at Yale Divinity School and has a Masters in Divinity *cum laude* from Virginia Theological Seminary. She is the author of eight books; the most recent are *Vital Signs of Faith: Finding Health in Your Spiritual Life*, *Angels of the Bible* and *Healed: How Mary Magdalene Was Made Well*. More details soon!



SUNDAY HOSPITALITY

Are you looking for a fun and easy way to get your family involved in the church? Well lucky for you, hospitality is posting their new signup for the 2023 year. Hospitality is the food that is made or purchased for all to enjoy after the 11 o'clock service every Sunday, stretching from desserts to fruit to mini sandwiches. This year, the hospitality team will be run by Addie McCabe. If you are interested in being a part of this essential tradition, please feel free to reach out by emailing her at addison-mccabe@icloud.com or texting her at (210) 771-1782

SPRING 2023 SUNDAY MORNING OFFERINGS - 10:00 AM FORMATION HOUR

RICHARD ROHR BOOK STUDY: FALLING UPWARD

Dates: February 5 - April 2, breaking on March 5 and 12 for Spring Break

Location: Large Conference Room

Join Ana Cotton and Dana Hamilton as they facilitate a book discussion through Richard Rohr's *Falling Upward*. Rohr writes, "Most of us tend to think of the second half of life as largely about getting old, dealing with health issues, and letting go of life, but the whole thesis of this book is exactly the opposite. What looks like falling down can largely be experienced as 'falling upward' In fact, it is not a loss but somehow actually a gain, as we have all seen with elders who have come to their fullness." Books can be purchased in the office for \$25 and the companion journal for \$10 or both may be purchased at the book retailer of your choice. Ana and Dana ask that you read the invitation and the introduction before the first class.

RECTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

Dates: February 5 - April 2

Location: Small Conference Room

Join Fr. Irv as he explores the presence of the Holy Spirit throughout scripture. This class will give insight into a variety of books in the Bible, as well as themes across time, in relation to the Holy Spirit, including all the guidance and inspiration the Spirit offers us for today's world.

COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS

Dates: February 5 - April 2

Location: Parish Hall

We live in a time of sharp political divide. As Christians we are called to see the world through the lens of the Gospels of Jesus. In this facilitated discussion we will talk about how to approach real life topics in a Christ like fashion. We will discuss how Jesus might approach modern day issues, and how we as Christians can give an alternate approach to the division we see around us. This will be the second part of the class, which began in the Fall of 2022. Topics covered last Fall include Immigration and the LGBTQ+ community. Topics requested for this Spring include Gun laws, abortion, health care, the diversity of Christianity, and women in the church. We all follow a conversation covenant, created together, which guides our conversation toward respect for difference and the acknowledgment that we do not have all the answers to any particular topic.

NEW WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

We began *The Good and Beautiful* Bible Study series on January 18. This series provides insight and practical exercises to assist us on our journey toward our true selves as Beloved children of God learning to live the life we are created for following Jesus, guided by the Holy Spirit, and in community with each other. We'll begin Book 1 of 4 on January 18, pausing for Lenten Dinners the Wednesdays in March, and concluding Book 1 on May 3. It's not too late to join! A handful of copies are available in the church office for \$15 or you can purchase *The Good and Beautiful God* from the book retailer of your choice. This is a Zoom based class from 6-7:00 pm.

- Book1: The Good and Beautiful God
- Book 2: The Good and Beautiful You
- Book 3: The Good and Beautiful Life
- Book 4: The Good and Beautiful Community

SAVE THE DATES

INQUIRER'S CLASS

Dates: Sunday at 10:00 am beginning April 16

Join Rev. Reagan for an introductory class to The Episcopal Church and St. Luke's. This is a great class for those new to our church, and meets the requirement for confirmation and reception into the Episcopal Church at Bishop Reed's visitation on May 21, 2023. Topics will include church history, worship, governance, theology, and more.

LENTEN DINNERS

We will host our annual Lenten Dinners in the Parish Hall on Wednesday evenings in March from 5:30-7:00 pm. Dinner is \$7 and all are welcome. There will be formation for all ages from 6-7:00 pm. The nursery will be open and available. Watch for more details soon!

ONGOING FORMATION

Thanks to so many lay leaders and volunteers there are a myriad of ways to deepen your relationship with Jesus and the community of St. Luke's. Below is a sampling recurring offerings. Check out our website or talk to Reagan for more details.

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Monday Mom's Book Study | • Wednesday Evening Bible Study | • Young Adult Group |
| • Luke's Men Bible Study | • Thursday Meditation Group | • Daughters of the King |
| • Wednesday Morning Bible Study | • Lunch Bunch | • Brotherhood of St. Andrew |

LUNCH BUNCH

We have a good lineup scheduled for the New Year! Lunch Bunch meets on the third Tuesday of the month for a meal and special presentation. All ages are welcome and encouraged to attend! Tickets are \$12 at the door and reservations must be made prior to the event.

Join us for some of our upcoming programs!

February - Alamo Plaza plans

March -Field trip to San Fernando Cathedral, lunch off campus, (RSVP by Friday, March 17)

April - Green Door's impact on the community



MUSIC AT ST. LUKE'S



ORGANIST AND DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
RUSSELLJ@STLUKES-SA.NET

We had a strong and active year in review with the usual round of services, plus our new concert series, and several extracurricular events. I try to be involved with other musical organizations and also try to bring them into St. Luke's. This cross pollination makes for stronger connections in the community and enriches our own endeavors. Last January began with an invitation to direct the Caritas Choir in launching a new musical series at the Sisters of Charity Motherhouse Chapel. Our friend and supporter Mary Ann Winden endowed this series in memory of her husband, and commissioned a new work by Craig Phillips which we premiered along with several members from St. Luke's Choir. I've also enjoyed rehearsing the children's choir of St. Luke's School in performances including Graduation and their Carol Service. I love when children want to make music, and they deserve every opportunity.

Our own concert series continued with Jan Kraybill who played to a big and appreciative audience, and Alcee Chriss rounded out the series in spectacular fashion with his wit and virtuosity, directed toward the large and diverse audience.

Another event took place at the Motherhouse when members from the American Guild of Organists played Dupré's Stations of the Cross on Good Friday – not so much a concert as a meaningful meditation. St. Luke's Choir was to return to the Motherhouse again as this was the venue we chose to make our latest recording: Sing My Soul. As a thank-you gesture members of the

Choir returned on the Eve of the Assumption to sing Vespers for the Community, this being their major feast when novices would profess their vows.

There was another recording that happened during the summer, this being the inaugural recording of the new organ. Reuter (Organ Company) produced it, and it went out on the Raven label. So far it has gained some good reviews and has sold around the country and even as far as Scotland.

The term ended with the Organ Birthday Concert, followed by Handel's Messiah. Two musical events of note are a series of lunchtime recitals in March: Concerts for a Cause. This is a way to use the new organ to give back to the community, and all donations will go to Stand Up For Kids. 50% of youth in the foster system immediately become homeless the moment they age out, and that is something that mustn't be allowed to happen. Chelsea Chen is our Celebrity Recitalist in April – do check the music page of our website www.slecsa.org for updates. And then the Choir will be in Dublin during July when they sing in residence at St. Patrick's National Cathedral. We welcome your support as we try to give of our best for the good of St. Luke's and San Antonio.

Russell Jackson

Organist & Director of Music

**VISIT SLECSA.ORG/MUSIC TO LEARN MORE ABOUT MUSIC EVENTS
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR**

CONCERT SERIES

A CELEBRATION OF MUSIC AND ART

A Celebration of Music and the Arts began in December. This series is a gift to the people of St. Luke's, and the arts community of San Antonio. Please join us for these concerts, and invite friends to celebrate with us!

- **MARCH 1, 8, 15, 22 – 12:15 TO 12:45 PM**

A series of lunchtime organ concerts to raise awareness and funding for **Stand Up For Kids – End Youth Homelessness**

APRIL 23, 3:00 PM

Celebrity Organ Concert: CHELSEA CHEN

A world-renowned musician of astonishing brilliance and vigor



CHELSEA CHEN



- **MAY 14, 3:00 PM**

Dublin Choir Concert

Our Choir gives a send-off concert featuring music to be sung in Ireland. Come join us for a little festivity and hospitality!



YOUTH MINISTRIES



DIRECTOR OF
YOUTH MINISTRIES
BRYANG@STLUKES-SA.NET

Happy New Year to all from the St. Luke's Youth Group team! What a wonderful start to the new year it has been. The youth group ended 2022 with tremendous momentum as we finished our class series focused on the ministries that support St. Luke's and an Advent book series that told the story of the life of Absalom Jones. As 2023 begins we are keeping this momentum going both with our regular Sunday gatherings and new offerings for the youth of the parish.

Sunday evening youth group has begun a new series focused on the practices and traditions of the early Church, and a look into how worship has evolved through the millennia to what we celebrate on Sunday mornings today. This series will be ongoing throughout the first months of 2023 and will culminate in our very own youth led pilgrimage hike through the Bishop Jones Center and park. Another change with the start of the year to the Sunday evening classes has been the combining of our middle and high school youth, this will continue throughout the remainder of the year with meetings from 5:00-6:30 pm.

For our high schoolers, the new offering of "Theology on Screen" has begun on Wednesday nights from 5:30-7:00 pm. This program allows the youth to see how theology is present in many of our favorite movies and TV shows, and lets us dive into a deeper exploration of how these representations can impact our faith lives. The high schoolers have chosen some really great films and shows, and we look forward to the discussions as we also expand our movie library.

2023 also brings a once in a lifetime opportunity for all St. Luke's high schoolers as this year marks the first Episcopal Youth Event (EYE) in six years. EYE is the second largest gathering of the Episcopal Church (only after General Convention), and is truly an international event with high schoolers serving as delegates for the Diocese. This year's EYE will be hosted by the Diocese of Maryland and will be held at the University of Maryland in Baltimore from July 4th-8th. EYE is open to Episcopal Youth in high school during the 2022-23 academic year. More details are included on the next page. As this event is only offered every three years, EYE23 will be the only chance for many current youth to attend. St. Luke's is excited to send a strong contingent of our high schoolers to serve as delegates for DWTX and show all that we have to offer the Church.

As this issue of Tidings goes out the youth group will be headed off to our first overnight lock-in and group trip to hike Enchanted rock and explore the themes of what a journey to the mountain top means, and how our relationship with nature impacts our faith lives. This trip serves as a start to further trips and volunteer opportunities planned for the new year that will continue to grow and nurture the bonds of fellowship we as a group have formed.

With the announcement of the Bishop's visit on May 21, one of the most important parts of youth ministry will begin at the end of February as we prepare the next batch of confirmands with the start of our

catechism classes. These classes will take the place of our usual 10:00 am formation hour and will serve as the confirmation class for the 8th graders who wish to be confirmed. This will be a 12-week class and is open to all youth who are interested in learning more about the Episcopal Church and exploring the mysteries of our faith.

Even though the year has just started, the youth group of St. Luke's has hit 2023 with a running start, with both old and new offerings that help us to grow both together in Christ and as a ministry. None of this work could happen without the dedication of both the youth and volunteers who have shared both their time and ministry with us, and I offer the deepest thanks I can for all members of the parish and their continued support. If you are interested in exploring opportunities with youth ministry, we greatly welcome you to explore becoming a volunteer. Please reach out to me at any time, my door is always open.

Faithfully yours,

Bryan

EYE

EPISCOPAL YOUTH EVENT

After a hiatus of six years, The Episcopal Youth Event (EYE) will take place July 4-8 at the University of Maryland, hosted by the Diocese of Maryland. EYE is an international event and the second-largest gathering of the Episcopal Church next to the General Convention. The Episcopal Church invites each diocese to send a delegation of high school youth, and the Diocese of West Texas hopes to send a strong delegation that reflects the amazing work and devotion of the youth in our diocese.

EYE is open to Episcopal Youth in grades 9-12 during the 2022-23 academic year and their adult mentors and occurs every three years. Which means EYE23 will be the last chance for many current diocesan youths to attend. With close to 1,500 people in attendance, EYE programs focus on helping develop leadership skills, spiritual practices, and early stages of vocational discernment.

Registration for EYE, for youth and chaperons, will be hosted by the Bishop's Youth Commission of the diocese. It will begin in January 2023 and remain open until March 1. The cost of attending EYE is \$400 plus travel expenses. Scholarships may become available.

Questions about attending EYE can be directed to Bryan Gonzalez at bryang@stlukes-sa.net.

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



CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY
MINISTRIES
KRISTINES@STLUKES-SA.NET



When both reflecting and looking ahead to how we can best support our children and families in their faith journey, I always go back to our mission statement. How can we best tune in to God's leading as we *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.*

Best practice in education is to always go back to the question of “why” we do what we do and plan what we plan. As many of you know, we worked hard with our Ministry Architects Team of parishioners to clarify the values and intent of our Children and Family Ministries. Our intent is explained at the top of our web page declaring that we are

A COMMUNITY WHO GROWS...

St. Luke's children, youth, and family ministries show Christ's love through the following values. As we lean into this new year, where are you hearing God leading you and your family? During our upcoming Family Art Night, we will be discussing these talking points and journal prompts based on our values. I'm sharing some of the prompts here along with just some of the ways we are becoming a stronger community.

Inclusivity – Striving to love others as Christ loves us; all are welcome. How do we best welcome children and families into the lift of our church family? How do we show and share love this year? What images come to mind?

We are intentional about truly welcoming all. The books and materials we have in the Narthex and in our classrooms reflect the wonderful diversity of God's kingdom. Stay tuned for news about sharing these stories told with a Godly Play approach and visit <http://www.tellmethetruthaboutracism.org> to learn more.

Intentionality – Building the kingdom of God by purposely engaging with the church and surrounding areas through consistent programming and events. Where is God calling you in your ministry - serving others in His name? ... Not necessarily doing more since often God wants us to surrender, heal, trust Him to lead. In what ways do you need healing? Where is He leading you and your family? Where is God leading us as a church family?

Service – Reaching outside ourselves by engaging the community, meeting people's needs, and spreading the gospel with our hands and feet. How are we inviting and intentionally building relationships with each other and our wider community of San Antonio? How are we spreading the good news of the gospel in words, relationships, actions?

To learn about our Sunday school, volunteer opportunities, milestones we celebrate, upcoming events, parent groups, resources, and more visit our web page at www.slecsa.org/children-and-families.

KRIS SPILKER, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND
FAMILY MINISTRIES
KRISTINES@STLUKES-SA.NET

Journal Decorating!

Family Art Night

January 24, 2023, 5:30 pm



All ages fun with snacks!

kristines@stlukes-sa.net

Join your church family for a fun and reflective art night as we create Prayer Journals. As we lean into this new year, where are you hearing God's leading? We will chat through a set of questions and journal prompts, while we each create a collage on the cover of a blank journal or sketchbook. Collage materials and journals will be provided, but if you happen to have leftover scrapbook pieces, stickers and papers to share, please bring them with you.

We will provide sandwich trays, water, and lemonade. Otherwise, you are welcome to bring sides or desserts that are all finger foods please. To be sure we prepare enough materials and space, email me by Jan. 20th. Childcare will be provided for this event!

Email me with any questions: kristines@stlukes-sa.net.



A MUSTARD SEED CHRISTMAS

The Mustard Seed students enjoyed a variety of fun activities leading up to the Christmas holidays. We began with Holiday on the Hilltop at SLES. Our students got to see Santa and take a picture with him. Most of our younger students weren't too sure about sitting with Santa, but our older students were thrilled. The children also went out to the Buzzini Garden to play in the "snow".



Next, we had a special story time with Miss Anastasia from The Twig Bookstore. Miss Anastasia is an energetic and engaging story teller. She read the book Mother Bruce to both of our classrooms, and Bruce the Bear came for a special visit when the story was over. The children were able to give Bruce a hug. The week before Christmas Break, our children had

a book exchange with classmates and then headed to our school Christmas Party which was a huge success. The children sang Christmas Carols with Rick Cavender, decorated tiny gingerbread houses, had a story read by Santa followed by photos with Santa, and ate some yummy food. We had a great turnout from our parents for the Christmas party. The next day everyone wore their pajamas to school, watched Polar Express, and saw a model train in action. It was a great ending to 2022!



JENNIE MCLENDON
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BISHOP COADJUTOR NOMINEES

On February 18, clergy and lay delegates of the Diocese of West Texas will gather to elect a Bishop Coadjutor, who will succeed the Rt. Rev. David Reed when he retires later this year. We can give thanks for the three candidates in the election. You can find information about these candidates and about the election process on the diocesan website, www.dwtx.org.

THE NOMINEES

FOR BISHOP COADJUTOR
OF THE DIOCESE OF WEST TEXAS



THE REV. RIPP HARDAWAY

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WEST TEXAS

RECTOR OF ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS



THE REV. ALEX MONTES-VELA

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF TEXAS

MISSIONER FOR CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY NEW INITIATIVES
FOR THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF TEXAS IN HOUSTON, TEXAS



THE REV. DR. DAVID G. READ

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WEST TEXAS

RECTOR OF ST. HELENA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL
IN BOERNE, TEXAS

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