

TIDINGS

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

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Dublin

Rally Day

St. Luke's Live

Fall 2023



ST. LUKE'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL

Vol. 64.4

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RALLY DAY

Letter from the Rector

Mark your calendars: Sunday, August 20 is Rally Day!

Rally Day is our annual chance to get excited about the various programs and events that will happen in the autumn months. We'll have a Ministry Fair featuring displays from our many ministry groups. Between services, you can tour the Ministry Fair and be reminded of all that goes on at St. Luke's. Maybe you'll get inspired to sign up and get involved in a new way. We'll have refreshments, including breakfast tacos and snow cones from the Kona Ice truck! There will be something for people of all ages.

In recent years, Rally Day has been the Sunday after Labor Day. But with school starting in mid-August, we figured we would tie Rally Day closer to the beginning of the school year.

I hope you've gotten some rest and refreshment during these summer months. If you've been away from the church this summer, Rally Day will be a great occasion to come back, reconnect with friends, and celebrate the many ways that the Holy Spirit is moving in our church community. I look forward to seeing you then!

The Rev. Irving Cutter, Rector



FROM THE ASSOCIATE RECTOR

We have had a wonderful and busy summer at St. Luke's. Our intergenerational *Illustrated Earth* class provided a time of fellowship, learning, and community building. Our summer prayer partners had a great time getting to know each other, and the program helped create connections across generations.

Our Going Deeper with the Gospels class has provided a way to give more time to reflect on the scripture we hear in worship each Sunday. Thank you to Charlie Alfaro and David Chidgey for coordinating and facilitating this class.

I'm grateful to Irv's leadership in recommending that St. Luke's not lean into the typical "summer hibernation." It's been wonderful to be able to welcome visitors at all four of our worship services, and to have good quality formation classes to invite them to join even during the height of the summer.

We also held two opportunities for laypersons to get their feet wet in facilitating group discussions. Our Learning to Guide event provided



resources, wisdom sharing, tips and tricks on how to lead classes at St. Luke's and beyond. Thank you to the Adult Formation Committee and all the participants for making it a great event.

We have lots of exciting things coming up for Adult Formation this fall, including more Bible Studies and our Inquirers Class. Watch for details to come, but know that every Sunday during our 10 AM hour there is always an opportunity to learn and grow together.

The Rev. Reagan Gonzalez, Associate Rector

CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Volunteer Opportunities

As we head into the Fall semester, where is God leading you to use your time, talent, and treasures? Much of our planning under our Children and Family Ministries umbrella involves a wide variety of volunteer needs. Where do you find that what you love to do meets a need? Please prayerfully take a moment to complete this short survey to mark your interest and we will contact you to discuss options. You may even have an idea of how to contribute that is not mentioned! Your ideas are welcome, especially because everything we do is truly about relationships. We would love to talk with you.



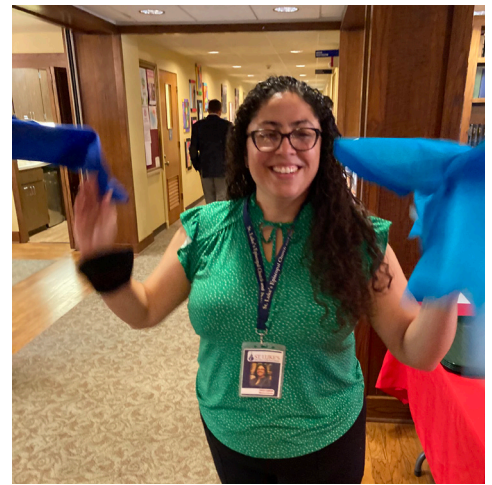
C&F Volunteer Survey

Calling All Knitters!

Calling all knitters to knit simple, cotton baby blankets for our Children and Family Ministries to share with our young families and welcome their newborns to our congregation. We can knit at home or may choose to find a time to knit together. As we knit, we pray and ask God to bless the infants these blankets may wrap. If you are interested in learning more, contact Sherrye Macha at smacha@sles-sa.org.

Nursery News!

Starting Sept. 10, we will have two nursery rooms! Our idea is that Infant-2's will be in the Shepherd's room while the Preschool room for children ages 3-5 will be the Angel's Room throughout the morning. Following the developmental needs of each age group, our loving nursery staff directed by Paula Guajardo prepares rooms that offer engaging play including story times and open ended art activities.



Formation News!

During our 10 AM formation hour in the Angel room, a nursery staff member will ring a bell to gather the children to a circle time for a bible story, time of wondering and invitation to related activities and play. (Note that children going into kindergarten will start the year in this room, then combine with the 1st grade class starting Oct. 29th.)

Class Summary

Visit our Children & Family Ministries webpage for more information on our nursery and our nursery guidelines. Note that the Sunday school info is being updated to reflect the following information soon!

Our kindergarten class will begin in the Angel room for the first 7 weeks for bible story circle time followed by engaging play centers. Oct. 29, they will then join the 1st grade class for Godly Play.

1st Grade: Communion Instruction for first 7 weeks: Learn what we do in worship and why we do it. Oct. 22 culminates in a special blessing and recognition during worship. We will reach out to you with more details! Starting Oct. 29, K-1st grades combine for Godly Play - Taking Time to Wonder.

2-3 Grade: Godly Play - Going Deeper. To learn more about Godly Play, visit this QR code.



4-5 Grade: Journey Through the Bible Class: Journey with us through the whole Bible in two years in an exciting interactive class. Students will be challenged in amazing ways to know where to find stories, seek understanding, and most importantly, look up Bible verses. The students will test their skills against each other in fun ways. Join us for the journey and see the Bible like you never imagined!



Save the Dates!

August:

- 3-5 Hosting Godly Play Core Training for DWTX from 9am-3 PM Thurs-Sat. Parlors
- 13: Backpack Blessing Day AND Godly Play Team Training Lunch from 12:30 - 2 PM.
- 20: Rally Day with interactive stations for children
- 27: Formation Orientation and Ice Cream Social at 10am / Sunday afternoon Parish Pool Party at Heights Pool. 1-3 PM.

September:

- 10: Formation Hour Begins. Nursery splitting into “Nursery” and “Preschool”. (Children’s Chapel may begin if a team comes together).

slecsa.org/children-and-families/

Kristine Spilker, Director of Children & Family Ministry



MONDAY MOMS

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Monday Moms meets every Monday 9-11 AM from Sept. 11 - Dec. 11 in the large conference room. Moms of young children gather for breakfast & fellowship. Childcare & coffee are provided! We take turns bringing breakfast, using a sign-up genius. Friends, neighbors and non-members welcome! Email Sarah Schimpff for any inquiries: smschimpff@gmail.com.



The Order of the Daughters of the King are actively looking for women in the St. Luke's community to join them in a committed life of prayer.

The Daughters of the King is an order for women who have reaffirmed the promises made at Baptism and Confirmation, and who pledges themselves to a life-long program of prayer, service, and evangelism. The Daughters pray for our parish prayer list daily.

They meet on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 12:15 PM. For more information on joining the DOK contact Ann Gill at (210) 273-5094 or mickeygilley@att.net.



RALLY DAY

Sunday
August 20

TACOS
KONA ICE
PHOTO QUEST
MINISTRY FAIR

COMMUNITY PET FAIR & BLESSING



Saturday, October 14, 10AM-12PM

PHOTO BOOTH
PUPPUCCINOS
TREATS & MORE!



* St. Luke's Church *



MUSIC AT ST. LUKE'S

Dublin & Beyond

The St. Luke's choir had a very good and successful week in residence at St. Patrick's National Cathedral of Ireland. There are two reasons for us doing this: 1) we continue the daily choral worship during the residential choir's absence -- the *Opus Dei* -- and 2) it gives our choir the experience and rhythm of maintaining the Anglican Choral Tradition which is at the root of what we do at St. Luke's. St. Patrick's is a relatively modern cathedral having been built in the 13th century (unlike Ripon which dates back to the 7th) but it is a glorious building as you will have seen from the pictures we shared online and in this issue of Tidings, and receives an astonishing number of visitors every day. Choral Evensong had a congregation of 100 to 150 people every day, regardless of (constant) rain. And the Cathedral Clergy (the Dean and Canon Residentiary) were immensely grateful in their comments during and after services. It was everything we hoped it would be, and I hope you'll get a better flavor from Wayne



Witt's article about the trip. Do ask choir folk or people who traveled with us about their impressions if you see them. And thanks for your support.

The new Music List and Concert Brochure will soon be released. We'll be bringing some new things to the table this year including the silent movie *The Phantom of the Opera* with yours truly providing the sound track, an orchestral performance of Handel's *Messiah*, the Duruflé *Requiem* on Good Friday, and a fantastic Celebrity Organ Concert by Jeremiah Stephenson. We all look forward to seeing you in September.

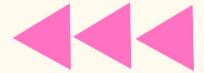
Russell Jackson, Director of Music

BACKPACK BLESSING

AUG. 13



9&11AM



THE GREEN DOOR

Christian Giving Grants

Each year the Green Door Thrift Shop supports non-profit, 501(c)(3) organizations dedicated to charitable and humanitarian efforts using proceeds from its sales. Organizations must have a mission and vision consistent with that of St. Luke's Episcopal Church and The Episcopal Church.

Grant applications will be available beginning Monday July 17th, with applications due by 5 PM on Thursday, August 31st. In addition to 501(c)(3) status and a mission consistent with that of St. Luke's Church and The Episcopal Church, grants will be evaluated based on programs or projects that:

- are well-defined, specific and measurable
- address a significant need or improve the quality of life
- benefit EITHER a large population OR a small population in a major way
- are transformative
- increase the capacity of those served to help themselves

For more information or to request a grant application email greendoorgives@gmail.com.



*A fundraiser for campus
security upgrades.*

ST. LUKE'S
LIVE 2023

*Buzzini Garden & St. Luke's Gym
VIP Reception Hour 5:30pm
Dinner + Cocktail Party 6:30pm
Rick Cavender Band
Live in Concert*

*Tickets &
Sponsorship Info*

Scan me

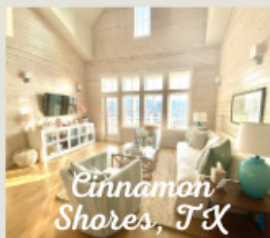




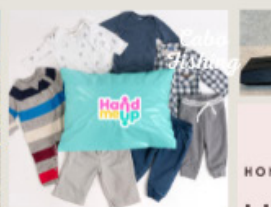
ST. LUKE'S LIVE

2023

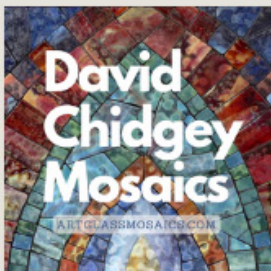
Friday, September 29th



Be A heart



JORDAN & PETERSEN
SKINCARE



BINGHAM
FAMILY VINEYARDS



DUBLIN TRAVELOGUE

Is it appropriate to talk about rave reviews following a Choral Evensong service?

Regardless, that is what happened as the St. Luke's choir sang five days of Choral Evensong followed by a regular Sunday Eucharist at historic St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, Ireland. The praise for the music came from many in attendance, and there were many daily, and was emphasized by Cathedral Dean William Morton and Canon Paul Arbuthnot both of whom were effusive in their responses.

The present facility dates from 1220 and is the National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland and is a member of the Anglican (Episcopal) Communion. It has survived wars, revolutions and a reformation. It has had deans since 1219 with the most notable being Jonathan Swift (Gulliver's Travels) who filled that position from 1713 to 1745. The St. Luke's contingent of 18 singers, a director,



an organist, and some 20 groupies mostly were housed on the campus of Trinity College Dublin. The college is expansive covering more than 40 acres and with an undergraduate and graduate enrollment of some 20,000. It was founded in 1592 by the Royal Charter of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth I. It is the oldest university in Ireland and one of the oldest in Europe. Some rankings say it is the ninth best university in the world.

The city of Dublin itself was established during the 7th century. The city has a population of 1.2 million and includes about 40 per cent of the total population of Ireland. And the St. Lukesters will confirm that a large segment of that population figure daily while walking the streets, all in a hurry and seemingly with some place to go. Fortunately, the city bus system is extraordinary. And yes, it rained daily.

Amongst all the foot traffic, too-many-to-count New York Yankees caps were observed. Sorry Michael Leach, nary a single Houston Astros cap was



seen. Walking fit well with Julie Gowen, Kay Sherrill, and Sherry Millican as they were among those counting their daily steps.

Other highlights included Mary Young bringing all the tools necessary to create etchings at the Cathedral, including St. Patrick himself, and Phyllis and Jeff Nordstrom and their new “Irish” headwear, and of course the pub tour which had too many stops to list. A few years back patrons of one of the pubs gathered to celebrate the 800th birthday of the place.

But perhaps the personal highlight of the trip came with two-year-old Amelia Tucker, daughter of soprano Kelley and tenor Andrew. At one of the

lengthy airport layovers, Amelia discovered the delights of riding escalators, up and down, numerous, numerous times, accompanied by Dad.

Then there is one event best forgotten. The main St. Luke’s contingent arrived in Dublin a full two days ahead of luggage which had been left in New Jersey. Cat Yarbrough is the group’s point person dealing with the airline and she is good at what she does. The group is appreciative.

Oh, has anyone mentioned that it rains practically every day in Dublin?

Wayne Witt, St. Luke’s Travel Correspondent

YOUTH MINISTRY

While the summer heat will be with us for some time, the summer months are quickly coming to an end and we begin to turn our attention to the fall and all the we have planned for the youth of the Church. This fall season is promising to be one filled with events, lessons, fellowship, and for the first time in several years St. Luke's will be sending our youth on a mission trip. However, before we dive into all that is coming with hopefully some cooler weather, we look back at the fun days of Summer and all the youth have been up to.

Throughout the Summer months the youth group has been meeting regularly every week during both our morning class and evening session. During these times the youth have taken a lead in redesigning the youth room as a space for youth designed by youth. The youth have also had multiple fellowship events including a bowling night and trip to mini golf. Many of our youth participated in Diocesan events with multiple members attending both Camp Capers and Duncan Park, and a member will soon be attending Happening #154 in August.

As this issue of Tidings prepares to go to print, multiple members of the youth group and

our larger parish family will be joining with the youth groups of St. Mark's and St. Thomas for an evening of fellowship before a day of service with the San Antonio Food Bank at Mission San Juan and their living history farm.

Beginning in August we will begin shifting back to a fall schedule as our youth begin the new school year. For members of the parish who are interested in volunteering with the youth group be on the lookout for our booth at Rally Day where all the accomplishments of the youth will be on display along with what the classes will look like throughout the new academic year.

Sunday, August 27, will see the official start for fall youth classes, and with this start there will be some changes to the layout of our classes. The morning 10 AM classes will be continuing to explore various subjects related to our faith lives, with our first deep dive looking at how liturgy has shaped many aspects of our daily lives and the role it plays in crafting the words we hear from speeches to movies.

The biggest changes for the new year will be for the Sunday afternoon sessions will be the return of having separate meeting times for our

middle and high school youths. The middle school youth will meet from 5–6 PM, and a shared dinner for both middle and high will be from 6-6:30 PM, and then high school youth will meet from 6:30-7:30 PM.

The major theme throughout this year will be looking at how we are called by Christ to serve those around us, and the ways we both as a youth group and a parish can serve our neighbors in actions both great and small. We are also planning on having several major fellowship events in the fall that will be voted on by members of the youth group. The youth group is excited to announce that in the early fall, with the help of our vergers, we will be participating in several acolyte training sessions during our regularly scheduled Sunday evenings, and introducing our newest members to the possibilities of serving in this vital ministry.

One of the largest events that will be happening for the youth group will be in October, when the youth are invited to take part in a three-day mission trip to Laredo to explore and learn how both the Diocese and larger Episcopal Church are ministering and serving newly arrived migrants. This chance to be at the border and

work alongside Christ Church (the local Episcopal Church of the city) will continue to be applied upon the youth's return as opportunities exist to engage in local migrant ministries connections here in San Antonio. The youth would also have the opportunity to present what they have learned on this mission to the wider congregation and possibly discover and lead ways we as a parish can engage in these ministries and foster continuing relations with our fellow Episcopal Churches throughout the Diocese beyond the bounds of San Antonio.

With the days of summer ticking away, I look forward to another fantastic year of work with the youth group and continuing to mentor and help strengthen the connections our youth make both with the wider parish and their faith. I thank all the members of St. Luke's for this opportunity to serve this ministry and the 2023-24 academic year will certainly be one of faith, fun, and fellowship.

Bryan Gonzalez, Director of Youth Ministry

Save the Date

to join St. Luke's Episcopal Church & School
for



Food, Drinks, Music, Games & More!

Friday, October 27, 2023
5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

MUSTARD SEED

It has been very quiet at The Mustard Seed for the past few months since school ended on May 18. The Mustard Seed teachers will return to campus on August 21 to prepare for the arrival of our students on August 29. By the time this publication is printed, I will have returned to the campus. I am excited that we have so many families returning to The Mustard Seed this school year, as well as some new families joining us in our younger classroom. We have three teachers returning to The Mustard Seed along with one new teacher. Ms. Maria and Ms. Sarine will be in the Shepherd's room (younger class), and Ms. Maggie and Ms. Katie will be in the Angel's room (older class). I am looking forward to having Ms. Katie join The Mustard Seed family. Getting ready for a new school year is always so much fun. Each year we get to try new things and repeat some of the favorite activities and lessons. This year, we will be adding more activities that involve the five senses particularly with the use of sensory tubs. We will use food and non-food items, as well as things from nature for the children to explore. We will also be incorporating more time for process art. Process art is art that is child-directed, their choice and completely their own. This is such

a great way for children to express themselves and show their creative side. This sometimes just looks like a mess, but if you ask your child about it, they will tell you so much about their creation.

Although the children and most staff on campus have been away for the summer, there has been a flurry of activity with security upgrades campus-wide and the new locker room for SLES. The Mustard Seed has had new classroom and office doors installed, as well as new double glass doors in the crossing. We have also ordered new, safer and more energy efficient windows for our classrooms. These will be installed once we receive them. I am excited for these new upgrades as they will keep our staff and youngest students safer plus, they look fresher and more updated. In the future, we hope to add some additional security features in conjunction with the church and school.

Jennie McLendon, Director of the Mustard Seed

ALTAR GUILD

Each week, we come together as a church family to experience and participate in corporate worship. During this time, we can see the work of lay ministries- ushers, greeters, readers, lay eucharistic ministers, acolytes, vergers- working in their various capacities to serve the Lord and St. Luke's. All of these ministries help us experience worship that fills us, and prepares us for our own spiritual work.

There is another worship ministry whose work is quieter, behind the scenes, not performed when and where most can see, but essential to the service. This is the Altar Guild. Simply put, the job of the Altar Guild is to prepare the altar for services, and to care for the items used in worship - linens, vessels, vestments. Yes, it involves doing dishes and laundry. It is a kind of Holy Housework.

But of course, it is so much more. You get to learn all the great names for the items used in the service. That plate the bread is on, that's a paten. The cup with the wine, a chalice, that napkin the Eucharistic ministers wipe the chalice with, that is a purificator. You get to learn how and why we use the things we do. You learn about the Episcopal worship traditions, and even some history about St. Luke's itself.

Most importantly, the work of the Altar Guild invites you, through seemingly ordinary work, into the mystery behind the mystery. As a member of the Altar Guild, you may find yourself

doing your work very early in the morning, alone, in the quiet of the Sacristy preparing for Sunday services. Or with a large group, getting ready for Christmas or Easter celebrations. I have made deep connections with others through this ministry. Those people, and the important work that the Altar Guild is called to do, have supported my own relationship with God.

Now to answer some FAQ's:

Who can join? Once considered the province of women only, the Altar Guild welcomes anyone with an interest to join.

Can you do Altar Guild with your kids?

Absolutely!

Can you do Altar Guild without your kids?

Absolutely!

Will someone help me learn? Yep!

I am an introvert, would this be a good ministry for me? Oh, yes! Also works well for extroverts.

If you have any questions, or would like to know more, please feel free to talk to any member of the Altar Guild. You will find them in the Sacristy on Sundays.

Nancy Hawkins, Altar Guild Director



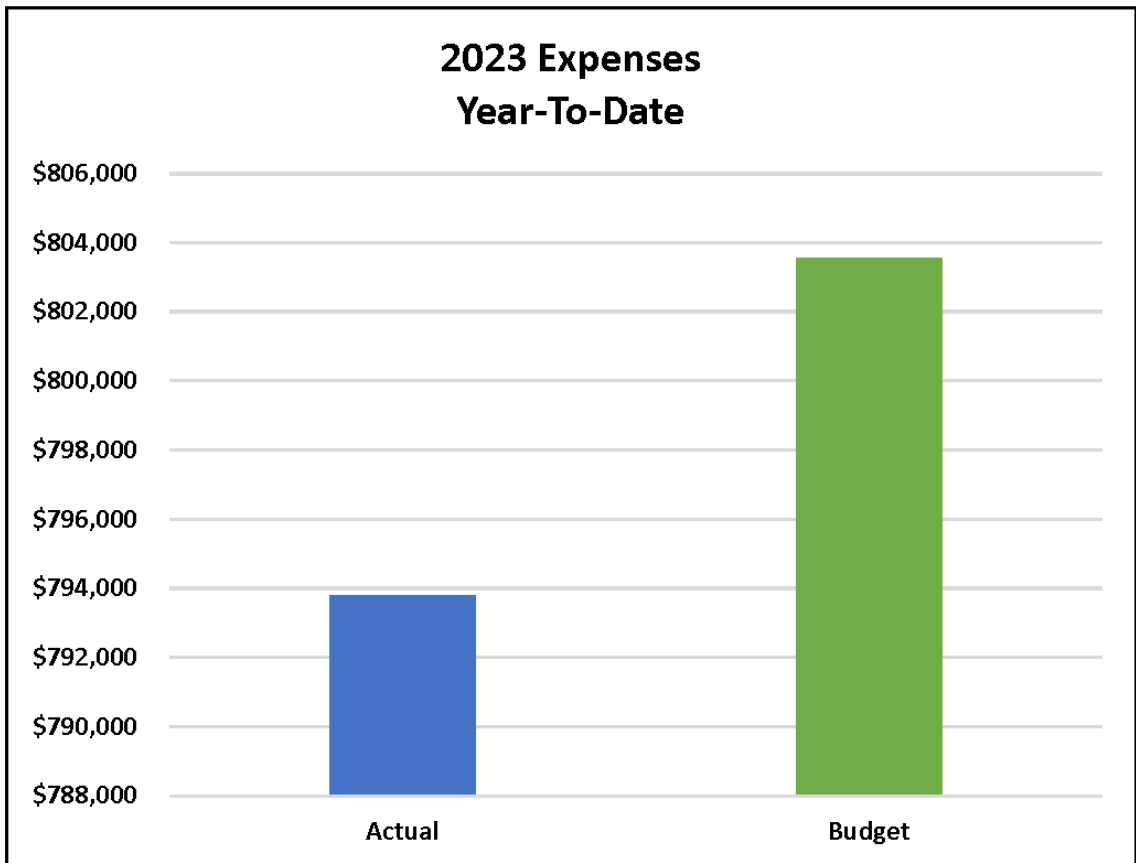
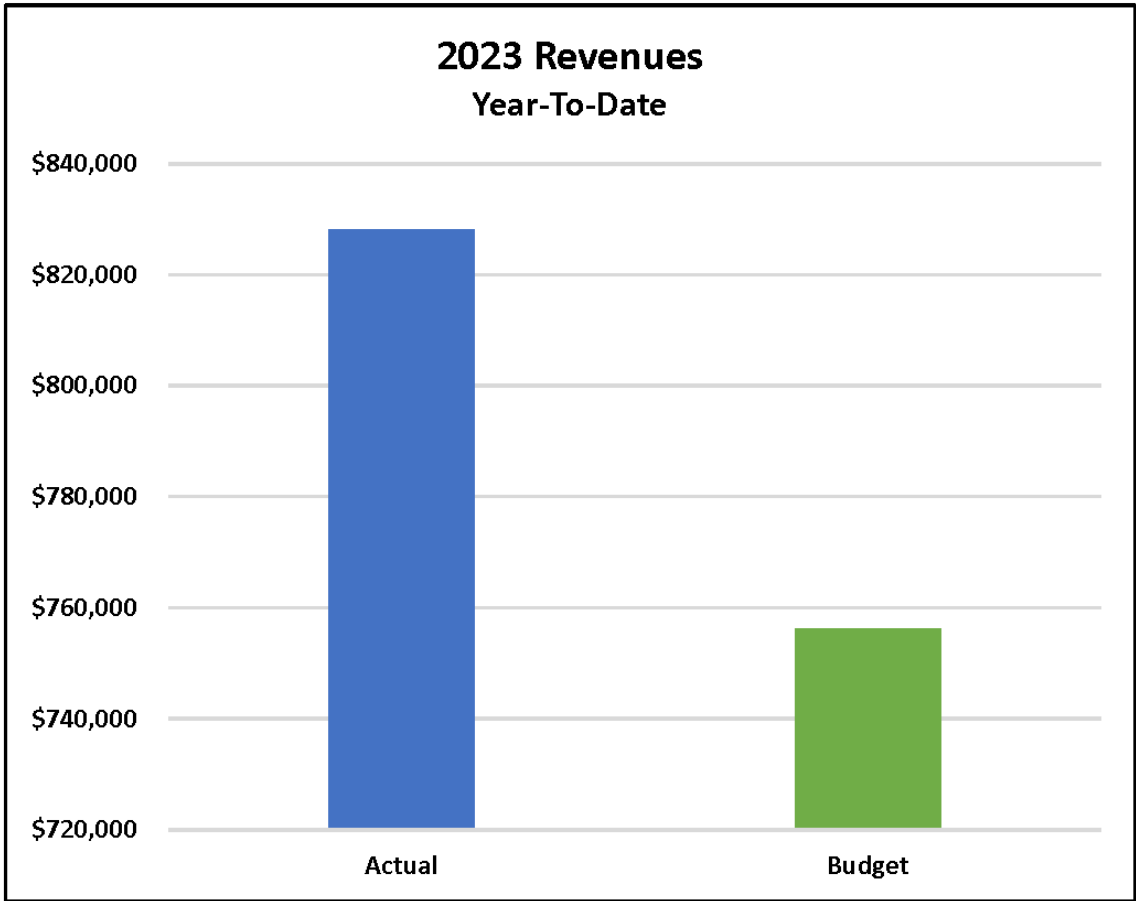
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your tour!

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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, Jon Sandidge
 or the Parish Administrator, Angie Hudgins at (210) 828-6425

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Statement of Activities - Operating Funds
 January 1, 2023 - June 30, 2023

	<i>Year-To-Date</i>		Annual Budget
	Actual 6/30/23	Budget 6/30/23	
Revenues			
<i>Contributions</i>			
Current year pledges	\$ 494,520	\$ 514,921	\$ 990,232
Nonpledged gifts	92,938	27,500	175,000
Loose plate offerings	10,212	9,000	18,000
Prior year pledges	12,287	2,500	6,000
Special offerings	3,971	2,500	5,000
<i>Total Contributions</i>	613,928	556,421	1,194,232
<i>Other Revenue</i>			
Endowment Trust Distribution	177,427	177,427	177,427
Fundraising Event (S. L. Live)	4,300	-	50,000
Interest and Other Income	32,591	22,400	47,900
<i>Other Revenue</i>	214,318	199,827	275,327
Total Revenues	828,246	756,248	1,469,559
Program and Operating Expense			
Personnel Costs	451,450	445,810	886,621
Diocesan Apportionment	124,836	124,836	249,672
Church Ministries	33,724	37,275	94,550
Administration and Operations	46,515	45,695	83,950
Church Building and Grounds	137,282	149,950	300,049
Total Program and Oprtg. Exp.	793,807	803,566	1,614,842
Income (loss) from ops.	\$ 34,439	\$ (47,318)	\$ (145,283)

Revenue

- Total Budget for the year is \$1.470 million - *Ahead of plan*
- June 2023 YTD is \$828k versus budget YTD of \$756k
- Current Year Pledges \$495k YTD versus budget YTD of \$515k
- Non-Pledged \$93k YTD versus budget YTD of \$28k

Expenses

- Total Budget for the year is \$1.615 million - *Ahead of plan*
- June 2023 YTD is \$794k versus budget YTD of \$804k

Overall Budget for 2023

- Planning for a deficit of \$145k - *Ahead of plan*
- Offset by Beginning Fund Balance & Employee Retention Credit
- June 2023 YTD \$34k Surplus versus budget YTD of \$47k Deficit

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
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San Antonio, TX 78209

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EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL

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