

TIDINGS

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

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Baptism Dates

We set aside one Sunday 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 saras@slccsa.org. Upcoming baptism dates in 2024 are:

February 4
March 30 - Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil
April 7 - Bishop's visit
May 19 - Day of Pentecost
June 2
July 7

August 4
September 1
October 6
November 3 - All Saints Sunday
December 1

LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

I love talking with visitors and hearing their first impressions of St. Luke's Church. People who are new to the Episcopal Church, maybe with backgrounds in large evangelical churches, often say how much they appreciate how small St. Luke's is, with an intimate and familial quality that they appreciate. People with experience in other Episcopal churches, however, notice how big and busy we are compared to the other churches they've experienced.

It's true that we are one of the larger Episcopal churches in the Diocese of West Texas. We've got resources available to us that other congregations don't have. But it's also true that if you look beyond the Episcopal Church, you'll find many faith communities that operate on a much larger scale than we do, with resources to minister in ways that we couldn't even imagine.

I like to think that St. Luke's is just the right size for the mission that God gives us right now. As a clergy colleague remarked recently, we're a church with "a lot of moving parts". As a church with four weekly services, we have busy, complex Sundays week in and week out. We have many distinct communities within the congregation, from the various worship ministry groups to the young adults group and the Green Door volunteers and the network of families with children at St. Luke's Episcopal School.

As you'll see from this issue of *Tidings*, there's lots going on at St. Luke's these days. I continue to hope for St. Luke's to be a place where people gather to worship the Lord, and then they can nurture connections and relationships with one another, and then we can partner together minister in God's name in the world around us. The task of church leadership – vestry, clergy, staff, heads of ministry

groups – is to be faithful in making good use of the resources available to us. I hope you'll find lots in *Tidings* to get you excited, and if you have ideas for new programs or ministries or offerings, I'd love to visit with you.

Yours faithfully,



The Rev. Irving Cutter, Rector



Save the Date: The Bishop's Visit

A bishop's visit is always an occasion for joy and celebration in the life of a congregation. Mark your calendars for Sunday, April 7, when the Rt. Rev. Dr. David G. Read, Bishop of West Texas, will visit St. Luke's Church. Bishop Read is known to many as our former rector, having served here 2009-17. We will present people for confirmation, and this is an appropriate occasion for baptisms, too. Please join us as we welcome Bishop Read back to St. Luke's Church!

FROM THE ASSOCIATE RECTOR

As we begin 2024 I am looking forward to another great year of Adult Formation at St. Luke's! Below you will find a list of upcoming events and classes that I hope you will find both educational and spiritually nurturing.

Special Events

Wednesdays in Lent:

Traveling through the Book of Acts

This year we will be combining with three other local Episcopal churches for our Lenten programming. Each Wednesday we will travel to a different church, eat dinner together, hear a presentation on the book of Acts from a variety of clergy, and engage in conversation and discussion. Churches participating this year are St. Luke's, St. David's, St. Margaret's, and St. Paul's. Watch for more details in your 5 Things and announcements for dates, locations, and times. We look forward to having you join us with our Episcopal neighbors around San Antonio as we learn and grow together!

Stations of the Resurrection: Sat., April 6

Join us for our third annual Stations of the Resurrection, a walking meditation on the post resurrection stories of Jesus. Similar to Stations of the Cross, Stations of the Resurrection give us time to reflect on the wonder, beauty, and joy of Easter. At each station a portion of scripture is read about Jesus' resurrection, prayers are said, and we meditate on beautiful artwork that goes along with the story. This year's stations will take place on April 6 at the

Bishop Jones Center. The stations conclude with Eucharist and a shared lunch. This would be an especially wonderful event for those who will be confirmed or received by Bishop Read the following day at St. Luke's.

Theology Think Tank: Thursday, February 8

Join co-facilitators James Gomez and Reagan Gonzalez as we explore topics of faith, theology, and the church from a stance of curiosity. We plan for this monthly event to give folks the opportunity to explore themes and topics of Christianity through questions, perhaps that you haven't felt comfortable asking in church or Sunday school before. We'll take questions ahead of time, and then walking with a variety of theologians throughout time, we'll discuss what God might be saying to us today. All theologies and perspectives are welcome for respectful conversation about our God who is beyond fully understanding.

We will meet at Neotopia Bookstore on Thursday, February 8 from 7-8:30 pm. Feel free to bring your own beverage. Light snacks will be provided. 301 Blanco Rd, Suite Q, entrance on Cincinnati.

Sunday Mornings

Gospel of Mark: January 7-31

Join us for this introduction and overview of Mark, the gospel we will primarily hear proclaimed and preached on in worship during 2024. Plots, character development, historical context, and what the

Holy Spirit is saying to us today are all a part of what we'll be learning together.

Spring Inquirer's Class: Feb. 4 - March 24

New to St. Luke's? Want to learn more about the Episcopal Church? Desire to be confirmed by Bishop David G. Read when he visits St. Luke's in April? Join us for our Spring Inquirer's Class on Sundays February 4 through March 24 during the 10:00 am formation hour to learn more about our community and the whole church. Topics include church history, governance, worship, theology, and more. Contact Reagan to register or with any questions.

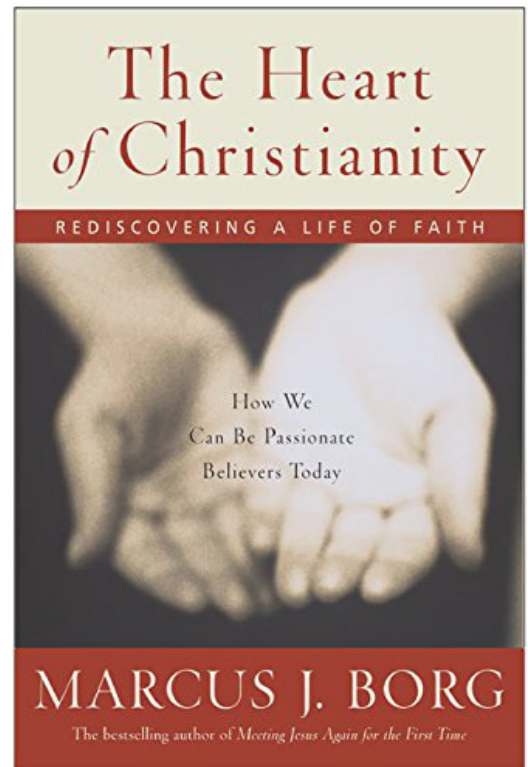
Exploring the Apocrypha: Feb. 4 - March 24

Join Fr. Irv in exploring the Apocrypha, a collection of books written in the four centuries between the Old and New Testaments. Many protestant Bibles omit the Apocrypha completely, but some versions place the Apocrypha in between the Old and New Testaments. Though the Apocrypha is not Scripture, many Protestants (including Luther, Calvin, and other Reformers) have found the collection useful historically, theologically, and spiritually. Bring your questions and stay for good discussion!

Sunday Book Study: *The Heart of Christianity* by Marcus Borg: Feb. 4 - March 24

For the millions of people who have turned away from many traditional beliefs about God, Jesus, and the Bible, but still long for a relevant, nourishing faith, Borg shows why the Christian life can remain a transforming relationship with God. Emphasizing the critical role of daily practice in living the Christian life, he explores how prayer, worship, Sabbath, pilgrimage, and more can be experienced as authentically life-giving practices. Books can be purchased through the church office for \$10 or through the bookstore retailer of your choice.

Parishioner James Gomez will be facilitating and the class reading schedule can be found below.



**The Rev. Reagan Gonzalez
Associate Rector**

Book Study Schedule

Week 1	February 4	Pref. - Ch. 1 (p. xi - 25)
Week 2	February 11	Ch.2-3 (p.25- 61)
Week 3	February 18	Ch.4-5 (p.61 - 103)
Week 4	February 25	Ch.6 (p.103 - 126)
Week 5	March 3	Ch.7-8 (p.126 - 164)
Week 6	March 10	Ch.9 (p.164 - 187)
Week 7	March 17	Ch.10 (p. 187 - 207)
Week 8	March 24	Ch.11 (p. 207 - 227)

DIOCESAN COUNCIL



The annual Diocesan Council is an important event in the life of the Diocese of West Texas. At the Diocesan Council, clergy and lay delegates from all the congregations in the diocese gather to elect people to various positions, approve the diocesan budget, consider resolutions, and celebrate the movement of the Holy Spirit in the diocese.

The location of Diocesan Council changes every year, and each year a different congregation serves as the Host Congregation. This year's Diocesan Council will meet in San Marcos, and St. Luke's Church is the Host Congregation!

Parishioners David and Ana Cotton are the co-chairs of the Diocesan Council Planning Team, working with several parishioners who are chairing various subcommittees. Maybe someone has already asked you to serve on one of their subcommittees.

How Can I Help?

Diocesan Council will be Thursday-Saturday, February 22-24. If you're available during those days and would like to volunteer, please let David or Ana know. On-site childcare will be available to volunteers who register, and our plan is to provide a free t-shirt to each volunteer! The Cottons would be very happy to connect you with one of the subcommittee chairs.

Cookies!

Even if you can't be present, if you can bake, you can help the effort. St. Luke's is committing to collect over 5,000 cookies for council this year! You can commit to a few dozen online using this QR code.



Council in Action

It's our custom for each Diocesan Council to gather supplies in support of a local agency doing the Lord's work in their own context. This year's Council is supporting Good Samaritan Community Services ("Good Sam"), a diocesan ministry based in west San Antonio serving the community in many ways. Through our Council in Action efforts, we'll be collecting supplies that Good Sam will distribute to the families they serve. If you'd like to support the effort, you could purchase the following items and bring them to church. Then our delegates will take them to San Marcos and make them available to Good Sam:

- Infant shoes (sneakers) and socks from size 1-12
- Youth shoes (sneakers) and socks from size 1-12 and adult sizes from 8-12 for older youth
- Hoodies/sweaters for infants up to age five, children from age 5 through 18, and some adult sizes.

Council Eucharist

One of the highlights of Diocesan Council is the Council Eucharist, the worship service that brings everyone together to sing our praises to God. All the clergy and bishops process, and our own St. Luke's Choir will provide the music. The Council Eucharist is open to everyone. So even if you're not a delegate or a volunteer, please consider attending the Eucharist! It will be livestreamed, and we'll provide the link beforehand. But there's nothing like worshiping in person. So consider coming to the San Marcos Conference Center for the service that's scheduled to start at 5:30 pm on Friday, February 23.

The Rev. Irving Cutter, Rector

PARISHIONER PROFILE

Ashley Stenoian

“We are so grateful to have found St. Luke’s and to be a part of such a wonderful congregation.”

So says Ashley Stenoien (sten-oh-when) speaking for herself, husband Greg and daughter Julia (2 1/2). Originally invited to St. Luke’s by parishioners Valerie and Daniel Shiu, the Stenoien’s have been active for better than a year now. And for Ashley active is the operative word.

She is teaching second and third graders in the St. Luke’s Godly Play program. And last fall she was on the organizing committee for the highly successful St. Luke’s Live fundraiser. Ashley says she has no plans to abandon either activity.

Saying the Stenoien’s have made friends at St. Luke’s, and that they have brought friends here, she cites the bustling children’s programs as favorite gatherings for Julia (and yes, Ashley herself).

Ashley is from San Antonio and Greg is from Houston so how did all this come about?



After graduating from San Antonio’s Incarnate Word High School, she moved just over Hildebrand Avenue to Trinity University where she earned a bachelor’s degree in business and a master’s degree in teaching.

Along the way she met Greg who would earn his bachelor’s degree in Spanish before going on to UT Health Science Center to become an MD.

Then began their odyssey as he progressed through his training. From San Antonio it was to Houston, then Temple, then Durham, NC, and Duke University for a fellowship. During all this, Ashley taught sixth grade in the Judson ISD before hooking up with a private outpatient imaging group. There she was in Human Resources at every stop along Greg’s path. Now, Greg is a neuroradiologist.

It is worth mentioning that Ashley was raised a Catholic in San Antonio and somewhere along the way spent time in the Baptist church before finding St. Luke’s which she says has “truly welcomed us and made us feel so at home.”

Wayne Witt, Parish Reporter

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, January 28

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 28, after our 11:00 am Worship Service. We will meet in the church for this year's meeting. The Annual Report will be available in print and in electronic format for your review before the meeting. You can view our slate of nominees for our new Vestry class at slecsa.org.

BUDGET REVIEW MEETING

This Sunday, January 21, church leadership will present the 2024 Operating Budget as approved by the church's Finance Committee. Join us in the Parlor from 9:30-10:15 am for the presentation.

VESTRY NOMINEES

Members of the Vestry Nominating Committee have been working this fall to identify candidates for election to the Vestry at next month's Annual Parish Meeting. We are pleased to present this year's slate of five nominees for the 2024-27 Vestry: Jim Caldwell, Mike Gill, Jessica Koontz, Robin Newman, and Lisa Petrosky. We will vote on the slate of nominees at our Annual Parish Meeting.



CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

St. Luke's Episcopal Church strives to provide an atmosphere where children can feel safe, valued, loved, and be nurtured in their growing relationship with Jesus.

The goal of the Children & Family Ministry Team is also to help children deepen their relationship with God, learn about the love and grace of Jesus Christ, and become active members in the church. We are intentional about our ministries together. Each January, I like to reflect on the values we've stated on our webpage. How are we doing in these areas as a church family? How can we better build relationships among each other and with our neighbors? As always, our framework of plans and our approach is on our webpage, but I'll highlight some plans that are in the works for the next few months that are hopefully helping support families in their spiritual journey.

GenOn Christian Parenting Project

Some of us on our DWTX Christian Formation Committee have been participating in a newly launched "pilot project for churches longing to connect in meaningful ways with families. These 108 churches, and the families in them, will test and give feedback on resources that support parents/grandparents/caregivers, kids, and the connection between homes and churches. We are embarking on a mutual journey to find where God is leading us in our current contexts with the real felt needs of today's families."

The leaders of GenOn have hosted terrific online workshops featuring leaders in topics such as understanding family systems, supporting families by having a trauma-informed ministry, and

developing our relationships and plans rooted in empathy and deep listening to the people we seek to serve. If you are interested in joining this conversation and attending these workshops online, please contact me so I can connect you with the facilitator.

Parent Survey

Inspired by these conversations, we've created a new parent survey to help us cultivate a ministry that is a blessing to all of our St. Luke's families and supports you and your family on your faith journey. Please take a few minutes to help us better connect.

Otherwise, a foundational way you can support our children and ministry team and plans is in prayer! We will continue to pray for our children and families and ways we can best support children and their families in their spiritual journey. As always, to read more of an overview with detailed descriptions, visit our children and family ministries webpage.

Family Fun Nights continue to work well to con-

nect especially newcomers to parishioners in fun and meaningful ways. Past evenings have included art nights and pool parties. At the time you read this article, we will have had our Pajama Party Night of Service! As we make plans for future Family Fun Nights, some will feature a speaker or host that can lead us in art or games and at times we will focus on outreach or social justice issues. Filling out the parent survey can help us hone in on future plans and relationships we build with our neighbors.

Lent and Easter Plans

Lenten Dinner Series

As we rotate to each church participating in our Lenten Dinner collaboration, I am working with Mary Hayden Manning from St. David's to make programming plans that are somewhat inspired by our Family Fun Nights.

Lenten Family Devotional

This year's family devotional, *Lent Full Circle*, will be made available on Sunday, February 11, in preparation for Ash Wednesday. More details soon!

Easter Day, March 31

Be sure to join us in our annual morning of celebration with Flowering of the Cross in our Butterfly Garden, breakfast tacos, and our giant Easter Egg Hunt! Keep an eye on our upcoming e-news for details.

Take the parent survey here!



**Kris Spilker, Director
Children & Family Ministry**
www.slecsa.org/children-and-families/

The background of the entire page is a photograph of three large, dark crosses standing on a dark, rocky hill. The sky is a deep purple with some lighter, wispy clouds. The crosses are silhouetted against the sky. The word 'LENT' is written in a large, white, stylized serif font across the middle of the image.

LENT

Tuesday, February 13 - Shrove Tuesday

- 5:30 pm - Pancake Dinner

Wednesday, February 14 - Ash Wednesday

- 8:00 am, 12:00 pm , 6:00 pm - Imposition of Ashes

Wednesdays in Lent

- 5:30 pm - Dinner, locations to be announced

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Sunday, March 24, The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

- The Palm Sunday liturgy at four services.

Monday-Wednesday, March 25-27, Holy Week

- 5:30 pm - Holy Communion in the Christ the King Chapel.

Thursday, March 28, Maundy Thursday

- 6:30 pm - An agape supper in the Parish Hall.
- 7:30 pm - Maundy Thursday Liturgy with Stripping of the Altar.
- 8:30 pm - Maundy Thursday Vigil into Good Friday morning.

Friday, March 29, Good Friday

- Noon - The Good Friday Liturgy in the church.
- 7:00 pm - Duruflé's *Requiem*

Saturday, March 30, Holy Saturday

- 7:30 pm - The Great Vigil of Easter in the church.

Sunday, March 31, The Feast of the Resurrection: Easter Day

- 7:00 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite Two, in the Outdoor Columbarium.
- 9:00 am - Choral Eucharist, Rite Two, with accompaniment.
- 10:00 am - Flowering the Cross with breakfast tacos.
- 10:30 am - Easter Egg Hunt with breakfast on the South Lawn.
- 11:00 am - Choral Eucharist, Rite Two, with accompaniment.
- 6:00 pm - Holy Eucharist, Rite Two.

MUSIC AT ST. LUKE'S

Happy New Year! As of this writing, we haven't yet celebrated Christmas, but I want to thank the choir for a job well done at our *Messiah* concert, and for a large and appreciative audience who made it all worthwhile.

Epiphany season is pretty short this year, but we have some great repertoire coming up, such as the French traditional carol *Quelle est c'est odeur*, ("Whence is that goodly fragrance"), *Kelly in C* evening canticles, and Palestrina's amazing *Surge illuminare*. Their titles probably mean little, but I hope they'll still be inspiring and convey their beauty.

Then we get into probably the richest of all seasons: Lent and Easter. Lent begins with *Allegrì's Miserere* on Ash Wednesday, that remarkably poignant rendition of Psalm 51; we add Pablo Casals' *O vos omnes* to the choral repertoire; and on Good Friday we sing the Duruflé *Requiem* at 7:00 pm in the evening. Maurice Duruflé is a French post-romantic composer who modeled his requiem on the famous one by Gabriel Fauré. This music is intensely emotional, as you'd expect mourning someone you loved, and in this case we sing it as Christ dies on the Cross. We invite you to grieve for Christ as he is laid in the tomb, and we welcome you to bring your memories of those you loved and offer them for safe keeping in heaven.

Ralph Vaughan Williams wrote a set of anthems called *Five Mystical Songs* and we have sung several of them. We add another to the choir library: *Rise heart, thy joy is risen!* A rapturous outpouring of the news that Jesus is no longer dead, but fully alive. And at the end of choir term and the liturgi-

cal year we have two new pieces for our Evensong on Pentecost: the evening canticles *Stainer in B flat* and Hagenberg's *When we love*. The text has great meaning for the times we live in – "When we love, simply love, even as we are loved, our weary world can be transformed." Be part of that transformation!

Russell Jackson, Director of Music

THE GREEN DOOR

The Green Door is getting new floors! The last ones have served us for over 30 years! All our merchandise is in storage and we will be recruiting volunteers to help us restock the store in late January. Watch the 5 Things for details on how you can help.

As you reflect on 2023 and consider your values and priorities for 2024, please consider giving some of your time to the Green Door. We need volunteers to help with sorting donations (low-impact physical exercise) and with pricing of donations (cognitive exercise). Even an hour or two a week will be helpful. We can use help anytime from Tuesday-Saturday between 9:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. Please contact Cynthia Rodriguez at greendoorslsa@gmail.com or Bonnie Giddens at bonnie@giddenstx.com.

**Bonnie Giddens
Chair, The Green Door Board**

CHRISTIAN GIVING

The Green Door

As a ministry of St. Luke's Church, The Green Door touches lives in a multitude of ways and one of the most profound is in the ability to financially assist non-profit organizations engaged in charitable and humanitarian efforts. One hundred percent of the net proceeds from the sales at the Shop is awarded annually in grants. Each year the amount available for these grants has increased such that for 2023 that total was \$135,000!

What has also increased each year is the number of organizations applying for grants. This year a total of 47 organizations applied for and received grants, 11 of which submitted requests for the very first time, so the word is spreading about The Green Door!

Organizations impacted by these grants involved areas such as Hunger and Shelter Relief, Substance Abuse, Nutrition awareness, Education, Children and Teens, the Elderly, and Special Needs and extended from as nearby as the West side of San Antonio to as far away as Honduras and Uganda. What an incredible reach, all of which is entirely due to the devoted work of The Green Door volunteers and staff and is done on behalf of St. Luke's Church, thus making The Green Door a major outreach arm of this church!

We are proud to present the list of recipients for the 2023 Christian Giving Grants.

Recipients

ABODE Contemplative Care for the Dying
Alamo City Performing Arts Association
Alpha Home
Any Baby Can
Believe It Foundation
Boys and Girls Clubs of San Antonio
Botanical Gardens Youth & Family Culinary Program
Brooke Army Medical Center Auxiliary
Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas
Christian Assistance Ministry
Eating Disorder Foundation of South Texas
DWTX Camps and Conferences
DWTX World Missions
DWTX Immigrant and Refugee Ministries
Every Shelter
Family Violence Prevention Services, Inc.
Form Communities, Inc.
Friends of Hospice of San Antonio
Good Samaritan Community Services
Green Spaces Alliance of South Texas
Guide Dogs of Texas
HemisFair Conservancy
Interfaith Welcome Coalition
Low Vision Resource Center
Magdalena House
Mission Road Development Center
Morningside Ministries
Northeast Senior Assistance
One Common Thread
Pay It Forward San Antonio
Project MEND
Reaching Maximum Independence
Restore Education
Roy Maas Youth Alternatives
SA Life Academy, Inc.
Saddle Light Center
San Antonio Metropolitan Ministries
San Antonio Threads
Special Olympics Texas
Special Reach, Inc.
St. Luke's Episcopal School
Texas Water Mission
The Arc of San Antonio
THRU Project
Visitation House Ministries
Wild at Heart
Women's Storybook Project of Texas

MUSTARD SEED

The Mustard Seed is currently enrolling children for the 2024-2025 school year. If you are interested in enrolling your child, or would like additional information about our program, please contact Jennie McLendon at mustardseed@slecsa.org or call 210-828-6425 ext. 254.

The Mustard Seed is a ministry of St. Luke's Episcopal Church for children ages 18 months to three-years-old. We strive to provide a developmentally appropriate early childhood experience that allows each child to grow emotionally, cognitively, socially, spiritually and physically in a loving atmosphere. The Mustard Seed is a busy, happy, and creative place where young children are encouraged to explore and actively engage all of their senses. Children will be ex-



posed daily to the word of God, nature, science, math, literacy, music and movement.

The Mustard Seed children attend a weekly children's Chapel, led by the St. Luke's Director of Children and Family Ministries. The Mustard Seed is a four-day program, Tuesday-Friday, with classes from August – May. Regular school hours are 8:30-12:30, but early care (7:45-8:30) and after school care (12:30-1:30) options are available.

If you are pregnant and/or recently had a baby and would like to add your child to the waitlist for a future year, please contact Jennie McLendon at mustardseed@slecsa.org.



**Jennie McLendon, Director
The Mustard Seed**

YOUTH MINISTRY

2024 is already upon us, and I wish you all a happy New Year from the St. Luke's youth group! Throughout 2023 the youth of St. Luke's truly answered our calling from Christ through fellowship, service, and truly loving our fellow parishioners and neighbors as ourselves. December of 2023 was no different. The youth ended the year strong with our traditional Christmas party.

On Wednesdays in Advent youth participated in a new class that allowed them to explore the history and tradition of Christmas carols. This new class culminated in the return of a beloved St. Luke's tradition of caroling. Members of our congregation of all ages visited the homes of several of our fellow parishioners to spread holiday cheer. With January well underway, we are keeping the momentum going both in our regular Sunday gatherings, and in new offerings for the youth of the parish.

If you are hoping to start the new year by supporting one of our many ministries, the youth group is welcoming to all and deeply appreciate the support of the members of St. Luke's. Whether it's volunteering as a second adult, providing meals on Sunday's, or helping connect the youth with non-profits or service opportunities, we welcome you and please reach out to Bryan at any time.

Sunday Classes

Sunday evening sessions will continue to see the middle and high schoolers meet separately, with a shared dinner in between. Both sessions will have a new series that will allow the youth to explore their faith and further develop their own spiritual identities.

The middle school will begin the series "The Life of Jesus" which will see our members delve into the four Gospels, and how they present the story of the life of Jesus. We will see how the different Gospels compare and contrast in their depictions of the development of Jesus' ministry, and to kick us off we will begin with the Nativity stories as told by Luke and Matthew.

Our high schoolers will begin an exploration of "Side Characters of the Bible", a new series which looks at those individuals who are mentioned in scripture only once or twice, yet have a tremendous impact on the ministry of Jesus and our own relation to the scriptures. From the Samaritan woman at the well, to Joseph of Arimathea, the youth will investigate both how they are depicted in the scriptures, and how their stories evolved and grew with the ever changing nature of Church history.

Catechism/Confirmation Classes

With the announcement of Bishop David Read's visit to St. Luke's on April 7, we will see the first group of fellow parishioners confirmed by our new Bishop. As we prepare for the Bishop's arrival, one of the most important parts of youth ministry will begin on January 14th, the catechism/confirmation classes. Catechism class is open to all youth and will run for 12 weeks during the 10:00am formation hour.

During these 12 weeks the youth will have a chance to explore and discover what the Episcopal Church is, why we do what we do, and what it means to be a part of the body of Christ. This class will also serve as the confirmation class for those

who are eligible and wish to be confirmed during Bishop Read's visit. Confirmation is open to all baptized youth who are in 8th grade or above. Being confirmed in the Church is a monumental event in the life of many parishioners, and is a time to both reaffirm our faith in God, and fully integrate as a member of St. Luke's. If either you or your youth wish to be confirmed, please reach out to Bryan with any further questions you may have.

D&D Wednesday's

We are happy to announce the beginning of the St. Luke's Youth led Dungeons & Dragons (D&D) Wednesday night campaign beginning January 31st. This newest offering is open to all members of the parish and provides a space for our Church family to come together for intergenerational fellowship. Whether you're a pro at D&D, or you've never played but want to give it a try, all are welcome to these sessions. The campaign is based on a pilgrimage, and throughout these evenings we will look at how important pilgrimages have been to the faith lives of countless individuals throughout the history of the Church. These night events will occur on the last Wednesday of each month (unless otherwise noted) from 7:15-8:45 pm, and will continue until the campaign is complete. We look forward to begin this new offering and if you have any questions please reach out to Bryan at any time for additional details.

Service & Outreach

One of the central themes for the youth group throughout 2023 was to go out into our community and dedicate ourselves to a year of service. From various service Saturday's to our mission trip to Laredo, the youth made sure to lead the charge in being a part of the wider SA community and being a part of the works of Christ to serve. Our calls to service will be no different in 2024, and the youth are ready to meet the challenge. Beginning in February our Service Saturday's will resume, and see members of the youth group volunteer at a different location once a month. To ensure that the lessons from Laredo continue, beginning in January the youth group will be organizing St. Luke's wide volunteering with the local nonprofit Plaza de Paz, a migration ministry that our Diocese co-leads that provides food and services to thousands of individuals each year. Also beginning in January and continuing throughout the year, the youth will organize several clothes drives for the Holding Institute of Laredo, a local nonprofit who we worked with during our mission trip, which serves the migrant community at the border, so that we may return at a future date and continue to support this vital ministry.

Lenten Series & Shrove Tuesday

Pancake Dinner

The time of Lent will soon be upon us, and during this time of reflection and contemplation we will see the return of the Wednesday night Lenten programming. This year's programming however, will be very different to years past. St. Luke's alongside our fellow Episcopal Churches St. Paul's, St. David's,

and St. Margaret's will come together and have a rotating Lenten series. Each Wednesday evening one of these Churches will host both dinner and a lesson based on scripture from the Book of Acts. Members of St. Luke's are encouraged to travel and visit these communities each week as we come together as a true Episcopal community. The youth offering for Wednesday evenings will follow the same format and, I will be leading the youth formation each Wednesday at the various Churches. The youth will focus on how Acts describes the early Church and how these early Christians would come together and worship, just as we continue to come together today. As we prepare to greet Lent, we also look forward to the arrival of the annual tradition of the Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner. Last year was a fantastic time and this year many youth and parishioners have expressed interest in having the youth group serve as the cooks for the dinner. We gladly will answer this call and look forward to kicking off Lent for 2024. This year's dinner will be held February 13 in the Parish hall, 5:30 – 7:00 pm. Please be on the lookout for signups and additional information as we quickly approach the date.

Bryan Gonzalez
Director of Youth Ministry

SLEC YOUTH GROUP

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Interested in helping support this amazing ministry?

Lend whatever talents you have, all are welcome at St. Luke's Youth Group!

- FORMATION HOUR & EVENING SESSION TEACHERS/SECOND ADULTS
- PROVIDE/ORGANIZE MEALS FOR SUNDAY EVENINGS
- CHAPERONES FOR FELLOWSHIP EVENTS & SERVICE DAYS

For More Information Contact:

Bryan Gonzalez
bryang@sleoca.org
(210)687-3314

Blood Drive, Sunday, February 4

St. Luke's will be hosting a blood drive on February 4 from 7:30 am to 12:30 pm. The bloodmobile will be parked on the south driveway during this time. As I'm sure you are aware, there have been several recent news stories about blood shortages in the San Antonio area. Please sign up by using the attached link to schedule a time that is convenient for you and start the new year off right by helping others in desperate need.

David Schrantz





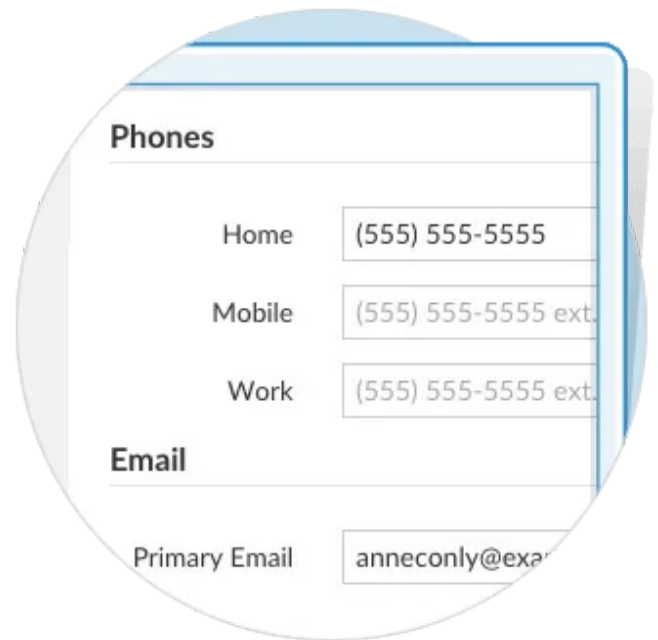
Download the app today!



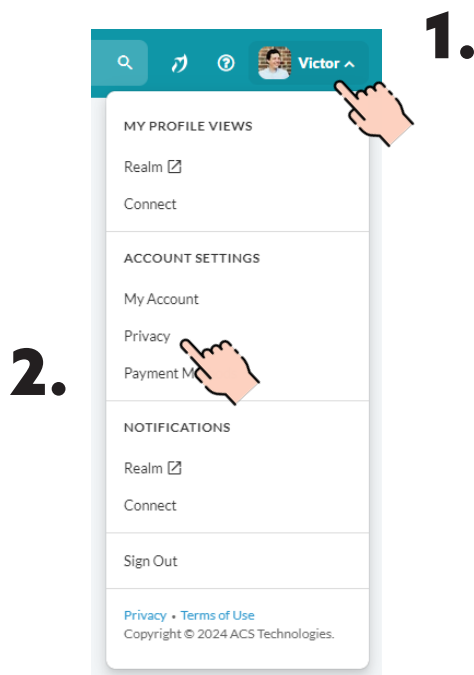
Join the online directory!

From the Realm Connect app, you can update your directory information to keep the staff and your parish family connected whenever you change your address, phone number, or email. From the website onrealm.org you can update your privacy settings to control exactly what people see. Your information is always yours to share if you wish! Contact Sara Spreen if you need help updating your information at (210) 828-6425 or saras@slecsa.org.

To maintain people's information integrity, all of your contact information is set to private by default when you sign up for Realm Connect. If you want to join the digital directory, visit onrealm.org and click on your profile image. From the drop down menu, choose Privacy, and then decide what you want to share.

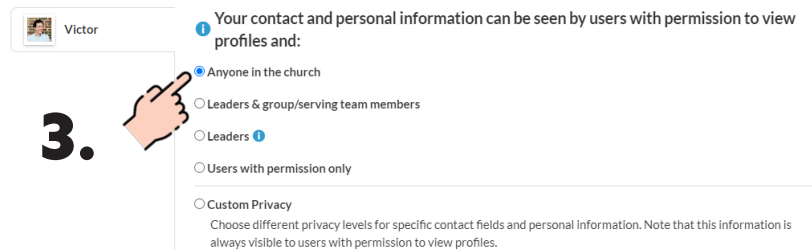


“Printing a church directory is becoming more antiquated as the years go by, not to mention a costly process for the church. Realm Directories allows St. Luke’s to offer an online directory for both staff and the congregation so everyone can stay connected no matter where they are.”



Privacy

Tell us what's ok to share with the church. Also, group meeting hosts' contact info may be visible, regardless.



ST. LUKE'S FIRST ANNUAL

Chili

COOK OFF

SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 4



12:30 PM IN THE PARISH HALL

All proceeds will go to Communities
Under the Bridge (CUB)

<https://www.cub-sa.org/>

Make the
best chili in
one of four
categories

FREE TO ENTER
FREE TO TASTE
\$1 TO VOTE



categories:

beans
no beans
non-traditional
corn bread

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San Antonio, TX 78209

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ST. LUKE'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
11 St. Luke's Lane, San Antonio, TX 78209
(210) 828-6425 | www.slecsa.org

The Rev. Irv Cutter

Rector - rector@slecsa.org

The Rev. Reagan Gonzalez

Associate Rector - reagang@slecsa.org

Angie Hudgins

Parish Administrator - angieh@slecsa.org

Sara Spreen

Ministry Support Associate - saras@slecsa.org

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Music Director & Organist - russellj@slecsa.org

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