

TIDINGS

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

FALL

In this issue:
New Associate Rector
Fall Formation
Concert Schedule
Renewal Works
and more!



ST. LUKE'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL

Vol. 65, No.3

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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 2024-25 are:

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

Jan 12 - the Baptism of Our Lord
Feb 2
Mar 2
Apr 19 - Saturday (Easter Vigil)



LETTER FROM THE RECTOR

The Rev. Irving Cutter

Dear Friends,

The Vestry and I are so excited about an initiative that we're introducing to the congregation in September.

Saint Luke's is joining other Episcopal churches nationwide who have participated in taking a comprehensive survey of spiritual life that can help provide valuable information to the Parish on our faith journey as a congregation. The inventory was created by **RenewalWorks**, an Episcopal organization charged with advancing spiritual growth, and is intended to be thought-provoking for your own faith journey.

Regardless of where you are on your faith journey — satisfied or seeking a new direction — we want to hear from all adult members of your household. Your results will be completely anonymous and confidential. We'll share the link with you in September.

We suggest that you set aside about 20-30 minutes to complete the inventory. We recognize that your time is valuable and it is important to note that once you start the inventory you must complete it — it is not possible to take part of the inventory and resume at later time. Due to the subject matter, it is intended to be completed in one sitting, to allow you to reflect on your faith in important ways.

All completed online inventories will be automatically tabulated by RenewalWorks. If you are

unable to complete the inventory online, provisions have been made with the church office to use one of their computers or to complete a confidential hard copy version. Please contact Sara Spreen for information.

After the results are tabulated, a team of parishioners will go through a process over the next few months looking at the results and interpreting them. They then will make recommendations to the Vestry based on their work. I'm hoping that their insights will help us understand what resources the church can provide to parishioners to help them on their path to spiritual maturity.

The RenewalWorks program has been so beneficial to churches that have used it. I believe it has great potential to help us understand where God is leading us in the future. I appreciate your willingness to participate, and I look forward to sharing this process with you in the coming days.

Yours faithfully,

(The Rev.) Irving Cutter
Rector

WELCOME OUR NEW ASSOCIATE RECTOR

The Rev. Eric Holloway has accepted the Rector's invitation to join St. Luke's Episcopal Church and School as our new Associate Rector. His first Sunday with us will be September 15.

Fr. Eric is currently Rector of St. Margaret's Church, San Antonio, where he has served since 2019. Before that, he was a curate at Iglesia Episcopal Santa Maria Virgen, Houston, and then the Campus Missioner at the University of Texas, Austin.

"I'm excited about welcoming Fr. Eric to the St. Luke's community," said the Rev. Irv Cutter, after a search process that drew applicants from around the Diocese of West Texas, across the country, and even internationally. "Once he's here, I look forward to working with him and our curate, the Rev. Tanner Ambs, to divide up duties and responsibilities, so that our clergy team is set up to work with the rest of the staff and with lay leaders to minister to the congregation and the larger community."

Fr. Eric is married to the Rev. Alex Easley Holloway. She grew up in Alamo Heights and attended St. Luke's Episcopal School, which is where their daughter Elizabeth is in kindergarten.



The Rev. Eric Holloway begins his ministry at St. Luke's on Sept. 15



FROM THE CURATE

The Rev. Tanner Ambs

I am so glad to be here with all of you at St. Luke's. The welcome that I have received over the past month and a half has been nothing short of incredible, and I am truly thankful for this parish. There is nothing quite like being in a new church and learning about the parish and its history. Whether you have been here since the beginning or are new like me, I would love to hear all about your experience of St. Luke's and what the parish means to you. I am always open for a chat, or a leisurely game of chess (the board is already set up in my office).

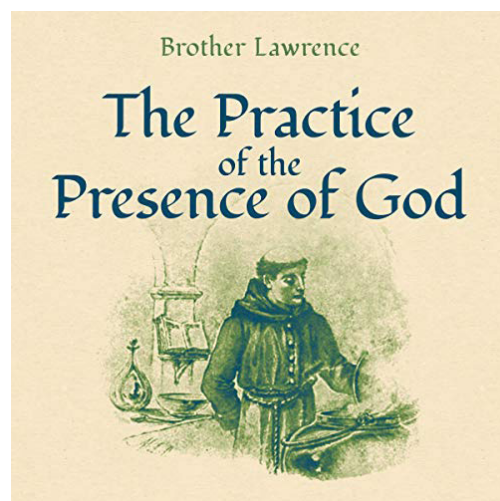
I have spent my first month settling into my office and learning my way around the parish and the school. I feel like I am beginning to grasp some of the rhythms of life in and around St. Luke's. Now that everything is sort of settled, I am ready to jump into fall here on the Hilltop. (Am I saying that right?) Part of the settling in process is working with Fr. Irv on what my focuses will be during my curacy at St. Luke's.

Two of my areas of ministry focus that I will be working closely with during my time here will be in Adult Formation and College and Young Adult ministry offerings. I am really looking forward to joining with the leaders that are already involved in those areas, some of whom I have already met with and some whom I have yet to meet.

For the fall, as far as Adult Formation goes, we will have three offerings this year for the Sunday Formation hour. We will have an Inquirer's Class, for those new to St. Luke's or simply wanting to learn more about the Episcopal Church. Topics include church history, governance, worship, theology, and more. There will also be a bible study, with more information on that to come, so be on the lookout.

An intergenerational book study for adults and youth will begin Sunday, September 8. We will be reading *The Practice of the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence, a Carmelite monk.

I am excited to be with all of you! And I cannot wait to see what God does in our lives and in this parish!



*The intergenerational book study
begins Sept. 8 at 10:00 am*

THE MINISTRY OF PASTORAL CARE

It's good when members of a family care for one another, looking out for each other and offering support in times of need. That's true in the Christian household, too. As fellow members of the St. Luke's congregation, the support we offer to each other as we meet life's challenges can be a holy source of strength and comfort.

Pastoral care ministries take many forms at St. Luke's and include:

Clergy visits. The art of pastoral care is an important part of the formation process for all people in ordained ministry. Clergy often have the privilege of being "first responders" for people facing challenging situations. When a parishioner is in the hospital or facing a challenging situation, we hope they will call the church, so that clergy can offer support, which can include prayers, pastoral guidance, and hospital visits.

Eucharistic visits. Several members of St. Luke's are licensed as Eucharistic Visitors. Their ministry is to people who can't come to church but want to receive the Sacrament that we share during Sunday worship services. If you can't come to church regularly and would appreciate receiving Communion at home, please reach out to parishioner Lindsay Hart at loveymarv53@hotmail.com.

The Community of Hope. St. Luke's has commissioned seven Lay Chaplains trained to serve in all forms of pastoral care. Pastoral care is when a person is "present" in a listening, compassionate, non-controlling manner to an individual or group for the purpose of representing God to them and seeking to respond to their spiritual needs. Through spiritual formation, practical lessons and the support, encouragement and insights of our members, lay chaplains deepen the roots of a caring community. So far this year, members of the Community of Hope have made 111 planned visits and had 171 pastoral encounters!



*Members of the Community of Hope:
Mary Lou Vielock and Marilyn Schrantz
with the Rev. Irv Cutter*

The Bethany Guild. Funerals are important milestones for families who grieve. The Bethany Guild is made up of parishioners who coordinate hosting receptions in the Parlor after a funeral. Their hospitality and the refreshments they provide are a generous offering for people who gather after a funeral to remember their loved one and to comfort one another.

Contact Carol McGanity if you would like more information about joining one of the Bethany Guild teams at csmcganity@gmail.com. She would love to tell you more about what they do.

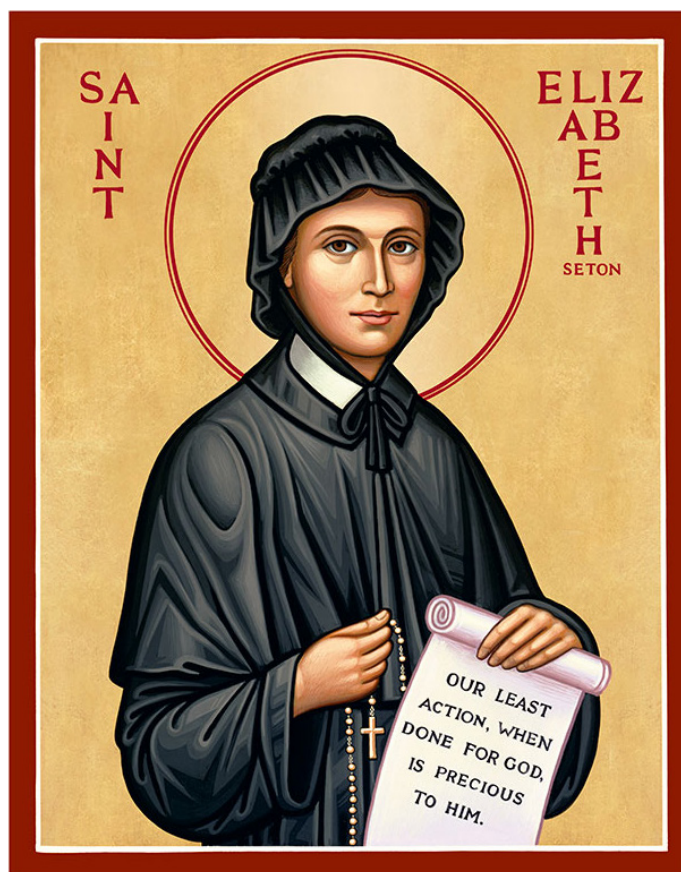
The St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Guild. This group began its ministry a couple of years ago, taking on the mission of writing letters to people who are mourning the death of a loved one. Formerly known simply as “the bereavement ministry”, they chartered themselves this summer as a guild, choosing to name themselves after St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, considered by many as the patron saint of those who grieve.

If you’d like to learn more about their letter-writing ministry, you can contact parishioner Nancy Mortensen at nancimort@att.net.

Prayers for healing. The ministry of prayer is a powerful offering of pastoral care. Each Sunday we print names in the worship bulletins and invite the congregation to remember those people in their own prayers. Additionally, the Daughters of the King and the Brotherhood of St. Andrew commit to pray reg-

ularly for people who request those prayers. And on Sunday evenings, a priest is always available to pray one-on-one with anyone who desires it at the conclusion of the 6:00 pm service. We’re currently looking at additional ways that the church can offer support to those who desire prayers.

We want St. Luke’s to be well-positioned to care for the pastoral needs of parishioners. Several ideas for new ministries are floating around, including the possibility of a prayer shawl group that would make shawls for people in need of prayer. If you can think of other pastoral care offerings that you’d like to see at St. Luke’s, please contact the Rev. Irv Cutter, rector@slecsa.org.



*The bereavement ministry is now the
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Guild*

RALLY DAY



August 25

**BREAKFAST TACOS
MINISTRY FAIR
FORMATION ORIENTATION
YOUTH ROOM OPEN HOUSE**



CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

Kris Spilker, Director

More than ever, as a church we are feeling the buzz of families who are always eager to see each other and continue to develop long lasting friendships in our community of faith.

As the Director of Children & Family Ministries, my role is to direct ministries under the umbrella of our committed and enthusiastic Children and Family Ministries Committee. Collectively we are mindful of always coming back to our intent and shared expectations. As we discussed plans for this fall, we have focused on what will build sustainable, faith-based relationships with God, each other, and our neighbors in our wider community. We value your prayers and involvement if this is a season for you to be involved.

Children & Family Ministries Team

The goal of the Children & Family Ministries Team is to help children and families deepen their relationship with God and each other, learn about the love and grace of Jesus Christ, and know they are valued members of our faith community.

Responsibilities:

Some of our shared responsibilities include praying regularly for each other on this team and for our ministry teams, plans, and events. We work together to assess our children's ministry needs, plans, and progress - using our stated values as a foundation. In order to do this work well, we have

been gathering point people for our various ministry areas. Each committee member takes the role of chair, leader, or liaison for one of the following ministry teams - inviting and empowering lay leadership.

Ministry Areas Include:

- Nursery
- Mustard Seed
- Sunday School - including our annual Communion Class
- Milestone Celebrations: Baptisms, Backpack Blessing, Teacher Appreciation, Bible Blessings
- Event Teams: Advent, Pageant, VBS
- Family Fun Night Series
- Outreach Committee Connector

Family Friendly Worship

We are leaning into our 9:00 am service being more family friendly - a more casual service that includes having the altar on floor level making it more accessible to all. Children are invited to play on the rug and in pews with a variety of toys and materials. Sermons and liturgy may be worded to include children. Families are invited to serve in a variety of ways throughout the service.

**Sunday School
Classes Start
September 8**



Sunday School Classes

Fall 2024

Our Volunteer Sunday School Teaching Team members have committed to keep each other and the families they serve in prayer and to build relationships as a group of families! Their practice of prayer and connection will support all involved in a community of care - the teachers, children and parents. Every single family of St. Luke's, whether they participate in Sunday school or not, will be covered in prayer. We look forward to the relationships that grow out of this intent.



TODDLER (JESUS LOVES YOU!) AND PRESCHOOL (GOD'S LOVE IS BIG!)

Nursery staff is excited to start using Hands-On Curriculum for both of our toddler and preschool rooms - teaching as Jesus taught, using creative objects illustrating eternal truths.



KINDERGARTEN - 1ST GRADE: GODLY PLAY - TIME TO WONDER

Godly Play is a Montessori style of telling Bible stories, parables, and liturgical action about religious traditions using simple, natural materials. It invites the listener to connect faith stories with personal experience through wondering questions and open-ended responses.

1ST GRADE AND UP! - HOLY COMMUNION CLASS

Through hands-on experiences in the classroom and sanctuary, children learn what we do in worship and why we do it. This class is especially geared to first graders, but older elementary children who have not yet participated are welcome as well. Registration Required.



2ND - 3RD GRADE: GODLY PLAY - GOING DEEPER

Godly Play with a focus is on important characters of the bible. Children are invited to connect faith stories with personal experience through wondering questions and open-ended responses.



4TH & 5TH GRADES: JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE

Journey with us through the whole Bible in two-years in an exciting interactive class. As we journey through the Old Testament this year, students learn how to navigate the bible, who wrote each book, why, and much more!

Kris Spilker, Director
kristines@slecsa.org



ST. LUKE'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL



Volunteer Opportunities

Fall 2024

KIDS' CORNER KEEPERS

Help move toys and supplies into the 9:00 am service then back out to the north Parlor.
Help maintain and rotate toys and supplies each month with Paula / Nursery.

FAMILY SERVICE HOSPITALITY

Work with ushers to help welcome and connect new families with others, know where to find the welcome area, kid's corner, bride's/mother's room during the 9:00 am service

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL TEAM

Is there interest in getting a team together to lead chapel during our 11:00 am service?
Are there parents that typically attend the 11:00 am service that are interested in helping coordinate and lead starting this Fall?

FAMILY FUN NIGHT TEAM

Our new focus is for families with children up through 5th grade, occasionally collaborating with the Youth Group. Chairs work to plan and promote events and recruit volunteers.

ADVENT WREATH MAKING EVENT TEAM

The Co-Chair role helps prepare the Advent devotion for families and any program and promotional decisions for the event.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT DIRECTOR AND CO-DIRECTOR

The Director oversees elementary ages in rehearsal and performance. The Co-Director coaches the "animals" for the song portion in rehearsal and performance.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHING ASSISTANT

Join our Sunday School Ministry team as teaching assistants for the K-5th grade classes.
Contact Kris Spilker to receive a description of the role along with expectations and links to apply.

Kris Spilker, Director
kristines@slecsa.org



SIGN UP
TO VOLUNTEER

PARISHIONER PROFILE: Griffin Kissling

Wayne Witt, Parish Reporter

Interesting, huh?

Interesting the way things come together to give direction for future actions. Ask Griffin Kissling, the stalwart of the worship music group at St. Luke's 9:00 am Sunday service.

A native San Antonian, Griffin's future was set when his Catholic father and his Baptist mother came together in the conclusion that the Episcopal church was where they should be, making Griffin pretty much a lifelong Episcopalian.

Then, Griffin and his wife *Emily* a while back got a telephone call from Daniel Kittrell and his wife *Emily* explaining they were in the St. Luke's 9:00 am worship music group and wouldn't Griffin like to join them? They came together some seven years ago. The Kittrells have moved on and now Griffin is the 9:00 am lead guy.

And along the way he was elected and is now into the second of his three-year term on the St. Luke's vestry.

A graduate of Alamo Heights High School, Griffin went off to Austin to earn his bachelor's degree in economics and business administration at the University of Texas.

Back home in San Antonio Griffin accepted a position as a project manager with a major construction company because, "I needed money to buy a ring for Emily." They now have Foster (3 years) and Warren (9 months). After the construction job

Griffin signed on with San Antonio's Jefferson Bank a year ago where he is a commercial credit underwriter. He says this is what he always wanted to do.

Griffin plays the guitar and the drums. He says he tries to practice the guitar every evening after picking up the instrument at age 13. And it was during his college days when he began to get into worship music. Apparently the drums have left the biggest impression, as after a recent 9:00 a.m.



Griffin practices for the 9:00 am service.

service, his son Foster was seen (*heard*) playing his father's drums.

Emily too is an Alamo Heights High School graduate. However, she went to Texas A&M for a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's in special education. Here is one more of those things coming together although this is more difficult to fully explain considering the two universities involved.

Somewhere among those times Emily and Griffin met while on the staff for a family event at the Mustang Island Conference Center. Griffin says it is probably good they didn't know each other in high school as he was working out some things.

Looking over his time at St. Luke's Griffin says it's "cool" to see new, younger families coming to church bringing their different personalities.

And how about this? Griffin has been a rock star. In high school he played in a garage band. In Austin he was in the group Aquadillo. Back in San Antonio he and a group were called Lionfish. "We played rock music, really loud rock music." Those things coming together can be explained.

The groups are on hiatus, but Griffin says some of Lionfish's recordings are streaming on Spotify, Apple Music and other platforms. Aquadillo can be found on YouTube-- if you search long enough.

Daughters of the King

An open invitation for women of St. Luke's to attend and learn more about the Daughters of the King.

Please join the Daughters of the King on the 3rd Sunday of each month in the Large Conference Room after the 11:00 am service.

Members of the Daughters of the King undertake a Rule of Life, incorporating the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service. A Daughter pledges herself to a life-long program of prayer, service, and evangelism, dedicated to the spread of Christ's Kingdom and strengthening of the spiritual life of her parish. She is to wear her Cross of the Order faithfully and work for the purposes of the Order.

All interested and eligible women must undergo a three month period of training from a Daughter (leader) followed by the Service of Admission presided over by our Rector.

Contact Ann Gill (President) at 210-273-5094 with any questions regarding the Order.



MUSIC AT ST. LUKE'S

Russell Jackson, Director and Organist

I'm looking forward to a new year beginning in September when we'll feature some new works as well as the great seasonal standbys. We'll promote several important composers who have anniversaries during the term, including: Anton Bruckner, Gabriel Fauré, Gustav Holst, Camille Saint-Saëns, Charles Villiers Stanford, and David Willcocks, to name a few.

I've also scheduled two major works of Benjamin Britten: three movements from his *Ceremony of Carols* on Christmas Eve, and his large-scale anthem *Rejoice in the Lamb* for our final Evensong. The text of *Rejoice* is by Christopher Smart, a renowned poet and inmate of Northampton Lunatic Asylum; he was known to sit in the portico of All Saints' Church and write his visionary poetry. All information about musical happenings at St. Luke's can be found in the Music List (hardcopies in the Narthex) or online at www.slecsa.org/music.

Throughout the year we'll be preparing for a new recording: *True Light*. The Anglican choral tradition draws on many genres, having its ancestral roots in Plainsong and the first Great Hymns of the Church. It has developed through polyphony to the English Golden Age when Henry VIII dictated what would be acceptable in his Church, and as this developed through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, we recognized that the continent still had much to offer even if not written specifically for the Anglican Church.

The Episcopal Church also observed the wonderful influences of different traditions and denominations which it gladly embraced. Composers like Duke Ellington, Keith Hampton, Moses Hogan, Randall Thompson... who we will feature on this recording.

The recording is a precursor to our next choir tour when we'll be singing at Durham Cathedral in the northeast of England in 2027. Durham was my home county, and this was my diocesan cathedral. I have never taken a choir to Durham, so it seems fit to make this a stop on our tour. Durham Cathedral is often, and rightly, called the Eighth Wonder of the World.

Though Ripon may be the oldest foundation from the seventh century predating Canterbury, Durham is one of the oldest buildings in Christianity. The cathedral is an enormous Romanesque building from the tenth century and is intact. It also houses two very important saints: Bede in the Gali-



lee Chapel perched high above the River Wear, and Cuthbert whose intact corpse rests behind the high altar.

Farthest east is the Chapel of the Nine Altars which are laid from north to south across the east wall. The (Prince) Bishop has the highest throne in Christendom, standing above the south choir aisle. Durham is a place of superlatives, not just the cathedral but the city (built on seven hills like Rome), the university which is housed across the cathedral green in Durham Castle, the place of the Norman Conquest and Hadrian's Wall, and was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987 along with the Taj Mahal and the Palace of Versailles.

Our Concert Series has four "home games" plus we welcome the Texas Children's Choir closer to Christmas, and the all-male choral group IlluMen next spring. I do hope you'll come to experience and enjoy our offerings; they're intended as a gift and to inspire you, and perhaps make the world a better place in the process.



THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

Sunday, October 27, 7:00 pm

Silent film with live organ accompaniment:
Russell Jackson

MESSIAH

Sunday, December 8, 3:00 pm

The Choir of St. Luke's & Chamber Orchestra

MOZART REQUIEM

Laetare Sunday, March 30, 3:00 pm

The Choir of St. Luke's, with Soloists

CELEBRITY ORGAN RECITAL

Sunday, April 27, 3:00 pm

Richard Pinel, London, England

Altar Flowers

Many people have special days during the year which they commemorate. Flowers on the altar of St. Luke's Church can mark the anniversary of a birth, baptism, confirmation, marriage, death, or be used as an expression of the joy of thanksgiving at any time.

Your donation of \$75 for Altar Flowers helps offset the cost of Altar flowers, and your flower dedication is printed in the Sunday bulletin. Donate at www.slecsa.org or email Sara Spreen for more information at saras@slecsa.org.



St. Luke's Episcopal Church Fall Fête & Fundraiser

TABLES & TICKETS ON SALE NOW

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2024



**DINNER, DESSERT & DRINKS | LIVE MUSIC
FELLOWSHIP | LIVE & SILENT AUCTION | RAFFLE**

*Benefitting St. Luke's Episcopal Church & Episcopal
Diocese of West Texas Immigration Refugee Ministries*

IN FEBRUARY AT THE DIOCESAN COUNCIL MEETING, THE RT. REV. DR. DAVID READ CALLED OUR DIOCESE TO SUPPORT THIS IMPACTFUL MINISTRY AND ST. LUKE'S COMMUNITY HAS ANSWERED THE CALL. ALONG WITH BEING OUR SLL SECONDARY BENEFICIARY, SLEC YOUTH RECENTLY COMPLETED THEIR SA MISSION WEEK SERVING AT PLAZA DE PAZ AND THE IMMIGRATION MINISTRIES. THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT AN "OFF THE HILL" COMMUNITY INITIATIVE DATES BACK TO THE ORIGINS OF ST. LUKE'S LIVE IN 2018 AND MEETS THE NEEDS OF OUR CHURCH'S MINISTRIES WHILE INVESTING IN OUR GREATER SA COMMUNITY.



St. Luke's Episcopal Church Fall Fête & Fundraiser

ST. LUKE'S LIVE 2024



Stewardship & Giving

"ST. LUKE'S LIVE IS AN IMPORTANT REVENUE SOURCE THAT PAIRS GIVING WITH A NIGHT OF FUN & FELLOWSHIP. EACH YEAR THE CHURCH & SCHOOL COMMUNITY COMES TOGETHER FOR OUR ONE FUNDRAISING & FELLOWSHIP EXTRAVAGANZA THAT GOES TOWARDS SUPPORTING THE CHURCH'S MINISTRIES AND AN ELECTED SECONDARY BENEFICIARY."

-MEGHAN POWELL, CO-CHAIR



Back by Popular Demand

- PRICKLY PEAR MARGARITAS GENEROUSLY DONATED FROM THE FAMILY RANCH OF OUR SENIOR WARDEN DAVID & DENISE CHIDGEY AND THE AGAVE SPIRIT DONATED FROM DOWNTOWN SA FAMILY OWNED MAVERICK DISTILLERY
- COMPLIMENTARY VALET SERVICE FOR THE EVENING
- COMPLIMENTARY ON-SITE CHILDCARE FOR THE EVENING



New for Fall Fête 2024

- ONLINE PLATFORM WITH PERSONALIZED AUTOMATED CHECKOUT
- THE NEW SLL 2024 SILENT AUCTION
- BIDDING ON SILENT AUCTION ITEMS AVAILABLE FOR THOSE UNABLE TO ATTEND OUR FALL FÊTE
- MUSICAL GUEST SAM BAKER - HIS MOST RECENT ALBUM WAS DESCRIBED AS "SIMULTANEOUSLY BEAUTIFUL AND BROKEN... AN ARTIST WORTH WAITING FOR" BY NPR
- LIVE & SILENT AUCTION + RAFFLE ITEMS THIS YEAR WILL INCLUDE EXCLUSIVE TICKETS TO MANY HIGHLY DESIRED SA EVENTS, INCLUDING THE 2024 VALERO ALAMO BOWL, 2025 SAN ANTONIO STOCK SHOW & RODEO, 2025 VALERO TEXAS OPEN SUITE TICKETS, MAJESTIC SHOWS, GUIDED DEER HUNT, A GOLF PACKAGE AT TPC SAN ANTONIO & UNIQUE EXPERIENCES WITH OUR CLERGY, MUSIC DIRECTOR, AND 9AM PRAISE BAND!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR THE PLANNING COMMITTEE AND CONTACTING BUSINESSES FOR DONATIONS. WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU ON THE TEAM! OUR FUNDRAISER IS ONLY AS SUCCESSFUL AS OUR AMAZING AUCTION ITEMS. INTERESTED? QUESTIONS? CONTACT SLL CO-CHAIRS: MEGHAN POWELL & LEITA HATCHER

MEGHANL.PERRY@GMAIL.COM | LEITAHATCHER@GMAIL.COM

St. Luke's Episcopal Church & School Gymnasium @ 5:30-9PM



YOUTH MINISTRY

Bryan Gonzalez, Director

Summer in Review

It has truly been a busy summer here on the hill for both the youth and the whole of St. Luke's. Between construction projects beginning and ending, summer camps, summer jobs, and the various offerings from the parish, the youth group found itself pulled in many directions but always found time not only for fellowship, but to answer our call from Christ to serve.

As has become tradition at the beginning of the summer the youth visited altitude trampoline park for an evening of fun. This event marked the first of our summer fun outings for the youth that also saw a visit to an arcade for Father's Day, and a back-to-school movie night for one last night to relax before the start of the fall semester.

In addition to these summer outings, the youth group continued to meet regularly for our Sunday evening session with combined middle & high school. One of the greatest celebrations for the youth was our return to the newly renovated Youth Room. Since January



the youth group had been meeting in the Parish Hall while work was ongoing repairing the youth space following a water leak, and upon our return we were greeted by a drastically improved space that the youth have quickly come to love. A tremendous thank you goes out to the staff of St. Luke's for all their work in renovating this sacred space.

Sunday mornings found the youth formation hour combining with adult formation in our Spirituality of Hobbies series. Over the course of these many weeks we've had a chance to explore the hobbies of many of our fellow parishioners, and gain a deeper appreciation for what these hobbies mean to them both on a spiritual and personal level. I offer my deepest thanks to all our presenters for their wonderful work and for sharing such a meaningful part of themselves with the parish.

The end of July saw one of the largest undertakings by the youth group in many years as we met with Christ to answer his call to serve our neighbors with Mission SA. This week of mission right here in our own city saw the youth of our parish engage in work supporting the Immigration Ministries of our diocese and doing our part in providing assistance and a place of rest to those who have recently arrived in our nation.

Joining us during this mission week were youth members from St. Mark's and Church of Reconciliation, who were invited to ensure that we could share in the work in which DWTX is engaged.



The youth of these parishes made several visits to Plaza de Paz, the migrant respite center led by our diocese and engaged in work including preparing and serving over 230 meals, creating meal kits and prayer squares to be distributed to those continuing their journeys outside of the state, assisting with intake and travel processing for those at the center, and being present in this community.

In addition to the active work on the ground, a key component of the mission week was to encourage ongoing education not only for our youth, but all members of St. Luke's into the realities of our nation's migrant crisis. Over the course of the week St. Luke's hosted several guest speakers including representatives from our own immigration ministries and the Center for Refugee Services, as well as a visit to the historic San Juan Mission farm to better understand the history of migration to our city and how the San Antonio Food Bank is stepping up to provide food aid to the people of San Antonio.

I could not be prouder of the youth of St. Luke's and I offer my deepest and most heartfelt thanks to the youth, parents, presenters, volunteers, and parishioners who helped make this week of mission a truly wonderful success. One can see clearly Jesus is at work with many of our youth, and we look forward to providing opportunities in the near future to share more about our experiences with the parish.



Fall Classes & Schedule

Beginning August 18, our Sunday evening sessions will return to split middle and high school classes with a shared dinner in between. Both the middle and high school classes will see us carrying forward some of the lessons from our mission week, and continue to explore both the ways we can continue serving in San Antonio and why we are called to serve by Christ.

The fall season will also see the return of the high schooler off campus dinners the first Sunday's of each month. Beginning September 8, our high schoolers will venture off campus as we explore the neighborhood alongside fellowship. To ensure our

middle schoolers are not left out, there will be several opportunities for the middle schoolers to also have off campus dinners later in the fall.

Continuing to be intergenerational, the Sunday morning formation will see youth and adults combine for a book study led by our new Curate, the Rev. Tanner Ambs, and myself. This series will begin Sunday September 8, and for this series we will be reading *The Practice of the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence, a Carmelite monk.

This collection will allow us to explore and discuss practicing daily fellowship with God and finding God throughout our lives. Copies of the work will be provided to all youth who participate in the class. If you would like to reserve your copy, please reach out to Bryan.

D&D Wednesdays

While our initial D&D campaign is beginning to end, we will continue our D&D Wednesday offerings during the fall season! Whether you're a pro, or you've never played but want to give it a try, all are welcome to these sessions. With the beginning of school and the busy schedules of our youth, we will be returning to only hosting D&D 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 this continued offering and if you have any questions please reach out at any time for additional details.

Invitation to Explore the Youth Room

Earlier this year, a water leak under the Parish Hall kitchen led to significant damage to the floors, walls, and furnishings in the Youth Room. We decided to use this event as an opportunity to do some remodeling to the Youth Room, which had not been upgraded since it was created in the early 1990's. We used the funds from the insurance claim, along with some donations from a couple of generous parishioners, to give the whole suite an upgrade.

The first week of July saw the youth host our first evening sessions in the newly renovated Youth Room, and our youth could not be more ecstatic for this new space. With brand new flooring, an expanded kitchen, and dedicated dining space, the youth group has been hard at work both enjoying and decorating the space.

To mark this major renovation to this sacred space, we invite all members of the parish to visit the youth room during **Rally Day**, August 25. Come on down and see the largest changes to the Youth Room in decades and what has quickly become an even more beloved space by our youth.

As we prepare for the arrival of the fall season, we remind everyone that all 6–12th grade youth are welcome to any of our youth group offerings, and that we strive to make our youth group a place of acceptance and respect. If you wish to lend your talents to the youth group whether it be providing meals or serving as a second adult, we welcome you and please reach out at any time for further information.



MUSTARD SEED

Jennie McLendon, Director

Things have been quiet at The Mustard Seed since school ended in mid-May. In the last few weeks, I have been busy preparing for a new school year. We will see both new and returning families here at The Mustard Seed. Three of our teachers are returning for another year, and we are welcoming one new teacher in the Angel's Room.

Ms. Maria and Ms. Sarine will once again teach our youngest students in the Shepherd's Room. Ms. Maggie will be joined by Ms. Mercedes in the Angel's Room with our older students. Our teachers will return to campus on August 5th for a week of preparation and professional development which will include Pediatric and Adult First Aid and CPR.

We will start the year with a Parent Meeting on August 12. This is a time for new and returning Mustard Seed families to meet one another, hear about the plans for the school year, and meet their children's teachers. Our students will come the next morning for Meet the Teacher. This is an exciting day when we get to see familiar faces and meet new friends.

The first couple of weeks of school are always an adjustment for our students whether they have attended school previously or not. Our teachers encourage and support their students and help them to feel loved and welcome. Some children race into the classroom and immediately start playing while

others are more cautious and nervous. We do our best to meet each student where they are. After a few short weeks, all the back-to-school jitters will be gone.

This year, we will introduce Zoo Phonics into both of our classrooms. This is a fun way for children to be exposed to the alphabet and learn the sounds that each letter makes. Zoo Phonics uses picture cards which show the letter and an animal, along with a catchy saying, and body movements to teach letter sounds. Lower case letters are taught first since these are the letters that make up most print materials.

The whole alphabet is reviewed daily rather than teaching one letter per week. Repetition and body movement is a more engaging way to learn letter recognition and sounds. My goal is to introduce our students to a fun way to see and hear the alphabet. I do not expect our students to master the alphabet, especially our youngest learners, but this is a fun way to expose them to it. I want to make learning exciting and engaging, and to prepare our students for PreK-3.

We still have a few openings in both classrooms. If you or anyone you know is looking for a school for children ages 18 months – young 3s, please contact me at mustardseed@slecsa.org. There is additional information about our program on our website at www.slecsa.org/mustard-seed.



Now Accepting Students for the 25-26 School Year

At St. Luke's Episcopal School, students are prepared for higher education and beyond, ensuring children have a smooth transition for a successful high school experience.

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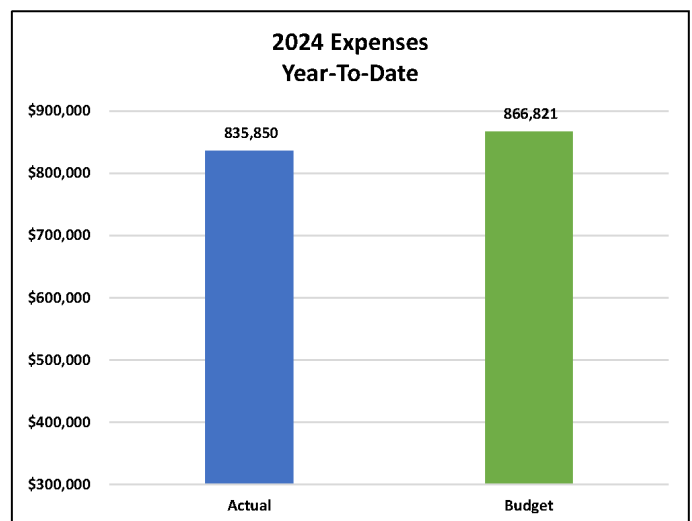
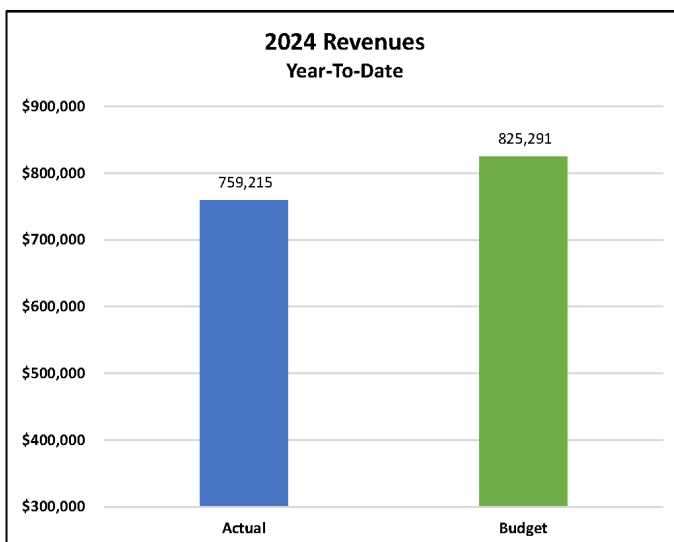
St. Luke's Episcopal School accepts applications on a rolling basis.

To inquire about the admissions process, enrollment, and grade-specific waitlists, email admissions@sles-sa.org.

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, 2024 - June 30, 2024

| | Year-To-Date | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| | Actual 6/30/24 | Budget 6/30/24 | Annual Budget |
| Revenues | | | |
| <i>Contributions</i> | | | |
| Current year pledges | \$ 488,230 | \$ 487,669 | \$ 995,242 |
| Nonpledged gifts | 48,156 | 92,250 | 225,000 |
| Loose plate offerings | 11,489 | 10,080 | 21,000 |
| Prior year pledges | 5,522 | 13,000 | 13,000 |
| Special offerings | 1,670 | 4,500 | 9,000 |
| <i>Total Contributions</i> | 555,067 | 607,499 | 1,263,242 |
| <i>Other Revenue</i> | | | |
| Endowment Trust Distribution | 174,842 | 174,842 | 174,842 |
| Fundraising Event (S. L. Live) | - | 1,000 | 65,000 |
| Interest and Other Income | 29,306 | 41,950 | 80,400 |
| <i>Other Revenue</i> | 204,148 | 217,792 | 320,242 |
| Total Revenues | 759,215 | 825,291 | 1,583,484 |
| Program and Operating Expense | | | |
| Personnel Costs | 479,481 | 493,424 | 976,404 |
| Diocesan Apportionment | 125,634 | 125,634 | 251,268 |
| Church Ministries | 26,926 | 42,095 | 99,250 |
| Administration and Operations | 47,898 | 51,005 | 89,100 |
| Church Building and Grounds | 155,911 | 154,663 | 309,577 |
| Total Program and Oprtg. Exp. | 835,850 | 866,821 | 1,725,599 |
| Income (loss) from ops. | \$ (76,635) | \$ (41,530) | \$ (142,115) |



St. Luke's Episcopal Church
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