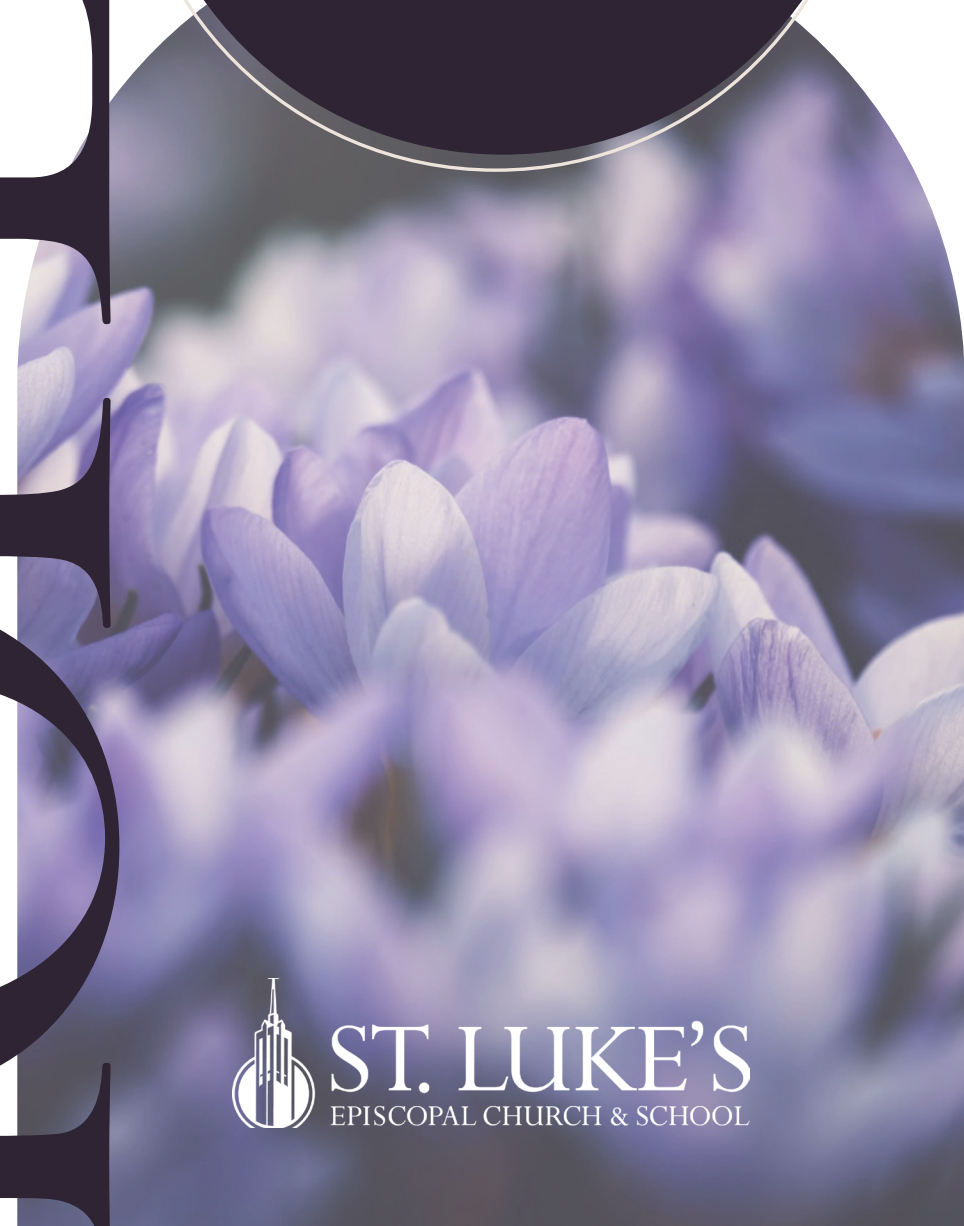


LENT

TIDINGS

Vol. 67, No. 1



ST. LUKE'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL

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

Lent & Easter

Inside: Lent Reflections, Parish Events, and More

Holy Baptism Dates

BAPTISMS 2026



BAPTISMS 2026

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, please visit our Life Events/Baptism page at slecsa.org/baptism or email Sara Spreen at saras@slecsa.org.

Upcoming baptism dates in 2026:

NO March Baptisms - Lent
April 4 - Saturday (Easter Vigil)
May 24 - Pentecost Sunday
May 31 - Bishop Angela visits; confirmations/receptions/baptism
July 5 - First Sunday

August 2 - First Sunday
September 6 - First Sunday
October 11 - Second Sunday
November 1 - First Sunday, All Saints' Sunday
December 6 - First Sunday

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From the Rector^r REFLECTIONS

An Invitation to a Holy Lent



Liturgical seasons allow us to highlight different themes related to the Christian life throughout the year. The season of Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday and continues through Holy Week until Easter, is a time to focus on penitence and our dependence on God: we remember how easy it is for us to fall short of God's expectations, and we remember our dependence on God's abundant grace and mercies. In Lent, it's good to set aside regular time for self-examination, prayer, and reflection. Lenten disciplines (giving something up or taking something on) can be valuable in reminding us what's possible when we rely on God's support.



“Lent is a good time to set aside regular time for self-examination, prayer, and reflection.”

Our liturgy changes in a variety of ways to emphasize the important themes of the Lenten season.

- The appearance of the church is different: purple, the color associated with penitence, is featured in the vestments.
- On the first Sunday of Lent, we recite The Great Litany at our 8am, 11am, and 6pm services. This very moving liturgical act reminds us of our dependence on God’s mercies.
- Our Anglican heritage includes a great body of Lenten hymns. The hymns that we sing at 11:00am will help us to understand the many dimensions of Lent.
- Our 8am, 11am, and 6pm services begin with a penitential order. After the invitation to confession, we will allow a longer pause for reflection.
- During Lent, we refrain from saying the word “Alleluia”, which comes from the Hebrew phrase which means “Praise the Lord.” This custom is just one more way to make Lenten worship more subdued, and to highlight the celebratory aspect of the Easter season which follows.

The Rite of Reconciliation of a Penitent

Now is a good time to remember that private confession is available to people who may desire it. Clergy are available on Good Friday and other times during Lent by appointment for this Rite (see BCP, p 446-452).

Baptisms

The church normally does not schedule baptisms during the season of Lent. The next traditional time for baptisms will be the Great Vigil of Easter, on April 4, the Saturday night before Easter Day. Please contact me if you or a family member would like baptism then.

Take advantage of all that the Church offers during Lent: worship, education offerings, and fellowship opportunities. May we all find ourselves on Easter morning better prepared to sing God’s praises and to celebrate the miracle of the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

See you Sunday,



IRV +
The Rev. Irving Cutter



FROM THE ASSOCIATE RECTOR

The St. Luke's Way of Life, a Card, and a Challenge

Many of y'all will remember that last year our entire parish took a RenewalWorks survey to assess our spiritual and communal health. After the results were shared with the congregation, our Vestry gathered an Implementation Team to begin putting those insights into action. As the staff liaison for that team, I'm happy to report that this work has been going well over the last nine months.

Our first priorities were increasing awareness of our ministries and helping the congregation Engage with Scripture. Much of this work has happened behind the scenes — rethinking how people find and engage with ministries and integrating communication more fully into Parish life. Our focus on Scripture engagement has already shaped the kind of Formation offerings we create and support, and we're beginning to see good fruit from it.

As we come to the close of this phase of our work, I'm pleased to introduce something the Implementation Team, clergy, and parish leaders have been developing for some time: our St. Luke's Way of Life.

"What Are We Doing Here?"

Before inviting the congregation into deeper engagement, we had to ask a simple but important question: What are we doing here? Not just as a team, but as individuals — how each of us who calls St. Luke's home is called to participate in the life offered to us by Jesus Christ.

Our answer became the Way of Life. It summarizes how members of this church have faithfully lived out their Christian walk over the years. It is descriptive, not prescriptive — a guide to help anchor us in faith, identify areas of growth, and give newcomers a clear picture of what it means to be an active member of St. Luke's.

We're excited to offer this to you. Printed cards will be available in the Narthex, and throughout Lent we will refer to the Way of Life as part of our Lenten Challenge, focusing on Engaging with Scripture together as a parish. It will continue to guide us as we look outward toward our next goal, "Pastoring the Community."

It is my sincere hope that this will be a helpful guide on your path of faith. I truly believe the Lord is always calling us closer to Himself, and there is no time like the

present to respond. Please feel free to reach out to me or any member of the Implementation Team with questions or if you would like help becoming more active in your spiritual life at St. Luke's.

YOUNG ADULTS

In addition to this work, and as the Young Adult Minister, here are some upcoming Young Adult Ministry events and programs:

Lenten Suppers – Each Wednesday of Lent we'll visit different churches to eat, learn, and pray together. The first supper will be hosted here in our Parish Hall on Wednesday, February 25th at 5:30 PM. I hope you'll join us throughout the season!

First Wednesdays – A time of fellowship, formation, and fun. We gather for dinner at 5:30 PM, then adults and kids split for activities before ending with night prayer. Our next gathering will not be the first Wednesday — due to Easter it has moved to April 15th (tax day!). As we continue our discussion on the afterlife, we thought it fitting: death and taxes do seem to go together. Please RSVP when you see the sign-up so we can plan food.

Young(ish) Adults Dinners – A monthly gathering on the third Thursday at rotating restaurants with good food and kid-friendly space. No RSVP, no program — just time together in the midst of busy lives.

Dads' Nights – Casual gatherings hosted by one of our leaders for food, conversation, and a bit of video gaming. No set schedule, so keep an eye out and RSVP when you see the announcement.

Baseball Game – Join us Friday, May 8th for a Young Adults' Ministry outing to the San Antonio Missions' Faith and Family Night — a little earlier in the season this year to beat the heat!

Mustang Island Family Camp – Our diocesan family camp offers summer fun on beautiful Mustang Island. Several St. Luke's families are planning to attend Session 10 beginning July 30th. Sessions fill quickly, so register early, and remember that scholarships are available upon request.

As always, please don't hesitate to reach out with questions, for prayer, or just to grab coffee and chat.

Many blessings to you all, may God's peace be with you!



Fr. Eric+
Associate Rector

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Way of Life

Through Christ, God draws us in, transforms us, and sends us out. These are the habits we commit to.

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

- Regular attendance of services & events
- Regular support of ministries through time, talent, and treasure

ACTIVE PIETY

- Consistent habit of daily prayer
- Consistent habit of daily scriptural engagement and reflection

ACTIVE SHARING

- Prayerful use of our gifts for others
- Direct acts of service, support, and charity to our neighbors in need

“This is a time in which we are called to especially put God front and center in our lives.”



Curate's Corner

I come from a background that did not observe the season of Lent. I had a vague idea of what it was because my father's family was Roman Catholic, his dad was a deacon, but I really had no experience with the season until I was an adult. So, growing up, Easter just sort of arrived with no clear marker leading up to it, except for Holy Week. Palms would be handed out to the kids on Palm Sunday and there would be special services for Maundy Thursday, with foot washing, and that, is about it.

When I came to the Episcopal church, I was introduced to this prayerful penitent season which culminates in the special liturgies of Holy Week. I found, and still find, so much meaning and beauty in Lent and the beautiful practices that are special for the week leading up to Easter Sunday. It could very well be my favorite time in the church calendar.

This year St. Luke's is continuing in our partnership with other Episcopal parishes around us for our Lenten Dinner series, where every Wednesday we will meet at a different parish, hear from different clergy, and learn and pray together. Our focus for this year is on the unique liturgies of Holy Week, their history and how they developed, and role that they continue to play every year. Each week we will spend time learning about and discussing a different liturgy of the week, starting with Palm Sunday and wrapping up with the Great Vigil. I hope that you will be able to join us as we travel through those liturgies together and continue to strengthen the relationships that we have with parishes near us.

“I found, and still find, so much meaning and beauty in Lent and the practices that lead us to Easter.”

We will kick off the series here on the Hilltop on February 25th starting at 5:30 pm with dinner and discussion in the Parish Hall and wrap up our time with Compline in the Nave. Please make sure that you RSVP so that each parish has a good head count to make preparations for dinner.



Scan to RSVP for the
Lenten Dinner Series.

Blessings,



Fr. Tanner+
Curate

The Mustard Seed

NOW ENROLLING FOR 2026-2027

The Mustard Seed is expanding! Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, The Mustard Seed will have three classrooms. This new classroom will allow us to reduce the age gap between students in each room. We will continue to have two teachers in each classroom. Enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year has begun. We are very grateful for the continued support and collaboration with St. Luke's Episcopal School who made this expansion possible.

The Mustard Seed operates 5 days a week, and parents can choose between 2-day (Tu/Th), 3-day (MWF), or 5-day (M-F) enrollment. Parents can select half-day (8:30-12:30) or full-day (8:30-2:30), and early care (7:45-8:30) is offered for an additional fee.

The Mustard Seed is a ministry of St. Luke's Episcopal Church for children ages 18 months to 3 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. Children will be exposed daily to the word of God during Children's Chapel. Children will also explore nature, science, math, literacy, music, art, and movement. The Mustard Seed teaches the alphabet using Zoo Phonics, which is a fun and interactive way to learn how to recognize the letters of the alphabet as well as the sounds they make.

If you are interested in enrolling your child at The Mustard Seed or have any questions about our program, please visit our website at <https://www.slecsa.org/mustard-seed/> or email Jennie McLendon at mustardseed@slecsa.org.

—*Jennie McLendon, Director of the Mustard Seed*



Children's Ministry

Greetings, Families!

Let me begin by offering a heartfelt thank you and congratulations to the children who shared their time, energy, and open hearts during our four-week Communion Class this past winter. Each week, they arrived at Sunday Formation ready to learn, reflect, and grow together in faith and community. For some, this was their first experience in Communion Class; for others, it was a meaningful opportunity to renew and deepen their understanding. Congratulations to all who participated—I look forward to sharing the Lord's Supper with you as we commune together as a church family.

As we continue in the spirit of James 1:17, we look ahead to the season of Lent with excitement and intention. We invite our community to spread the Light and Love of Christ through opportunities for worship, scripture, service, and family devotion throughout this sacred season.



SHROVE TUESDAY

Join us for a joyful evening at our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper! We're partnering with our Youth to make Tuesday, February 17th a night to remember. The youth and the Brotherhood of St. Andrew will be cooking up a delicious pancake supper for everyone to enjoy, and children—and anyone ready to craft and create—are invited to decorate Mardi Gras masks for our very own Second Line Parade. Festivities begin at 5:30 p.m., and all are welcome. We can't wait to

FAMILY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE FOR LENT

To support families as they take part in St. Luke's Lenten Challenge—growing closer to Christ through deeper engagement with Scripture—we are offering an easy-to-use Family Devotional Guide for Lent. These guides are designed to help make devotional time at home simple and meaningful, and will be available to pick up on Shrove Tuesday and each Sunday throughout Lent. Please see Bonnie Grubbs to receive a guide, and enjoy this special season of reflection and growth together as a family.

LENTEN SUPPER SERIES

Each Wednesday during Lent, we will gather with churches from our area to share a meal, enjoy fellowship, and learn together. Children's activities will be offered each week, and St. Luke's is honored to host the first gathering! Please plan to join us at 5:30 p.m.—this is a meaningful opportunity for our children to connect with others, experience the wider Episcopal Church, and grow alongside Christians around the world as we prepare our hearts for Easter.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS is coming—and we need you! Bryan Gonzalez and I are planning a fun, faith-filled week where our children will learn, play, and grow together, but we can't do it without a strong team of volunteers. If you can help lead, support, or simply lend a hand this summer, please reach out to Bonnie Grubbs or Bryan Gonzalez as soon as possible. Your yes will make a lasting difference in the lives of our kids!

SUNDAY FORMATION ROTATIONS

We're excited to be back to our regular Sunday Formation schedule! Each month, children will experience a mix of Creative Sunday (once a month), Godly Play (twice a month), and Children's Chapel (once a month). We look forward to welcoming your PreK5–5th graders upstairs in Room 201 each Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. Come grow with us!

EASTER SUNDAY

Even though Easter is still a couple of months away, we're already looking ahead with joy! Please plan to join us during the 10:00 a.m. Formation hour for a parish-wide Easter celebration on the lawn, including the Flowering of the Cross. We'll enjoy food, fellowship, and a big egg hunt for the kids—a joyful morning for all ages as we celebrate the hope of Easter together.

As always, we warmly invite you to be part of our children's ministry. Whatever your gifts—or the time you have available—there is a place for you to help foster and nurture the children of St. Luke's in their relationships with the Lord, with one another, and with our wider parish family. We are blessed with incredible children each week, and as our program continues to grow, so does our need for caring volunteers. Please talk with Bonnie Grubbs about joining in the joy and fun of this meaningful ministry!

— *Bonnie Grubbs, Director of Children's Ministries*



Youth Ministry

As we really feel the start of second Winter, the start of 2026 has shown that the bonds of fellowship and faith among our youth continue strong into the new year. 2026 started with the return to the youth room for our Sunday morning formation and the continuation of our evening sessions with our youth group welcoming both returning and many new members. With the Lenten season quickly approaching, it is time to turn our attention to the many offerings and events of spring. As we prepare to transition to our spring schedule, we look forward to many outings, adventures, and continuing our efforts to make the St. Luke's youth group a place where all youth are welcome and can discover how they are called by Christ.

Throughout 2025 and in these first weeks of 2026, the youth group continues to see new members join and returning members on our Sunday evenings with food often being a big focus in our combined middle and high school dinners. As you can imagine, feeding this many youth has increased the amount of pizzas ordered. If you feel called to help provide meals for the teens of the parish, please contact Bryan and keep

an eye on upcoming church communications for Sunday evening meal sign-ups. If cooking for 18 seems daunting, consider contributing snacks or beverages to the youth group. We offer a deep thanks and gratitude to the parish and all the support that makes allows this ministry to grow and thrive.

SPRING CLASSES & SCHEDULE

Sunday evening sessions will continue our practice of the middle and high schoolers meeting 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 and high schoolers will begin a new series focused on the evolution of art in Christianity, and how our depictions of faith often influence our own lives and vice versa. From the earliest tomb frescos and graffiti to the ornate Sistine Chapel and our own stain glassed windows, the changes in art styles over the centuries is sure to allow the youth to better understand how our faith lives can be shaped by what we see day to day.

During the 10:00am formation hour, the youth will begin a new series focused on individuals or groups who appear once or twice in scripture (who could be called side characters), but who had a large role on the ministry of Jesus and our understanding of faith. In this series we will explore individuals such as the Samaritan Woman, Mary Magdalene, Joseph of Arimathea, and many others and how many had stories and legends ascribed to them outside of what's in scripture.

“We continue our efforts to make the St. Luke's youth group a place where all youth are welcome and can discover how they are called by Christ.”

CATECHISM / CONFIRMATION CLASS

With the announcement of Bishop Angela Cortiñas visit to St. Luke’s May 31st, we will join in the celebration as members of our parish family are confirmed by the Bishop. As we prepare for the Bishop’s arrival, one of the most important parts of youth ministry will begin on March 29th, the catechism/confirmation classes. Catechism class is open to all youth and will run for 10 weeks during the 10:00am formation hour. During these classes 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’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 WEDNESDAYS

The intergenerational D&D Wednesday’s have returned beginning February 11th! Whether you’re a pro, or you’ve never played but want to give it a try, all are welcome to these sessions. These sessions occur on one Wednesday of each month from 7:15-8:45pm in the parlors. We look forward to this renewed offering and if you have any questions, please reach out to Bryan at any time for additional details.

SHROVE TUESDAY & LENTEN OFFERINGS

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, like last years, will see St. Luke’s join with fellow Episcopal Churches and come together for a rotating Lenten series. Each Wednesday evening, one of these Churches will host both dinner and a lesson on what it means to discern a call from Christ. 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 on

Wednesday evenings will mirror the adult program, with youth encouraged to attend and actively participate in the presentations and discussions.

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 and men of the

church return to cook those pancakes. We gladly will answer this call and look forward to kicking off Lent 2026. This year’s dinner will be held February 17th in the Parish hall, 5:30 – 7:00pm. Please be on the lookout for signups and additional information as we quickly approach the date. Youth who are participating in helping cook are asked to arrive at 5:00pm so we can prepare the pancakes early.

— Bryan Gonzalez, Director of Youth Ministries
Staff Liason for Outreach Ministry

The Green Door THRIFT SHOP

Living Lent Through Service: The Green Door in Action

Lent invites us into prayer, reflection, and renewed commitment to serving others. At The Green Door, we experience Lent not only as a season of spiritual preparation, but as a daily call to put faith into action—through the shared offering of time, talents, and treasures for the good of our neighbors.

COMMUNITY IMPACT THROUGH SEVEN KEY PARTNERSHIPS

In 2025, The Green Door delivered \$200,000 in community impact, including grants to seven local organizations whose work addresses some of the most pressing needs in San Antonio: family violence, housing insecurity, food insecurity, and the needs of children and youth.



We are grateful to partner with:

THRU Project, supporting young adults transitioning out of foster care with housing stability and life skills.

Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM), providing food and essential services to individuals and families in crisis.

Special Reach, offering programs and respite care for children with special needs and their caregivers.

Magdalena House, helping women and children escape family violence and rebuild their lives safely.

Faith Kitchen, serving meals and creating pathways to housing and workforce readiness.

Wonders & Worries, supporting children coping with serious illness in their families.

Team Rubicon, delivering rapid disaster response following the July Hill Country flood.

Together, these organizations extend care and hope throughout our city in ways no single ministry could do alone.

HOW THIS MINISTRY HAPPENS

Lent reminds us that service is a spiritual discipline. These grants and daily acts of kindness are made possible because of the many ways our congregation gives. At The Green Door, generosity takes many forms:

Treasures, through the donation of gently used clothing and household goods and through faithful financial stewardship.

Time, given by volunteers who sort, price, stock, assist shoppers, and welcome every person who walks through the door.

Talents, shared through organization, leadership, customer service, creativity, and problem-solving.

The Green Door is not simply a partner of St. Luke's—it is St. Luke's in action. It is the Church's largest outreach ministry, a light on the hill shining into the world. St. Luke's is called by God to illuminate San Antonio with the light of Christ through transformative education for people of all ages, compassionate care for each member of our community, and inspiring worship and music in the Episcopal tradition. The Green Door lives out that calling every day—meeting real needs with dignity, hospitality, and hope.

In 2025 we were also able to return a \$20,000 tithe to St. Luke's Episcopal Church, recognizing that this ministry does not exist on its own. The paper, supplies, facilities, marketing, social media, accounting, banking, ministry guidance, and prayerful support all flow from the strong foundation of the Church. Just as we give in our personal lives not out of obligation but out of love for Christ's work in the world, The Green Door joyfully gives back in gratitude for all that makes this ministry possible.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we continue into the year, we remain grateful for the strong foundation built by our staff, volunteers, donors, and Board. We also give thanks for the faithful service of Sallie Walton and Almeda Hodge, who have completed their Board terms and whose leadership has helped shape The Green Door in lasting ways.

“The Green Door is St. Luke's in action.”

A LENTEN CALL TO ACTION

Every donation received, every shift volunteered, and every purchase helps turn daily faithfulness into meaningful community support. This is ministry built not on one gift alone, but on many hands working together.

This Lent, instead of giving something up, consider taking something on—renewing yourself through service and community. A few hours at The Green Door can become an act of prayer, a gesture of hospitality, and a way to live out Christ's call to love our neighbors in practical, joyful ways.

If you feel a nudge to get involved, we would love to welcome you. To learn more about volunteering or to sign up for a shift, please email our store manager at greendoorslsa@gmail.com.

With gratitude,

— *Roberta Ortega, Chair of The Green Door Board of Directors*



St. Luke's Episcopal School

As I reflect on this year at St. Luke's Episcopal School, I am filled with gratitude for our students, our families, and our faculty and staff. Each day on the Hilltop, we are reminded that education is more than academics alone; it is about belonging, purpose, and growing together in faith. This sense of home was affirmed during our recent accreditation visit, where St. Luke's was commended for professional excellence, the strength of our students and families, and our clear Episcopal identity, culture, and community. These affirmations reflect what we experience daily: a school grounded in faith, care, and connection.

Emily Dickinson writes, "I dwell in Possibility — A fairer House than Prose —" and those words beautifully capture what it means to be a school community. At St. Luke's, we dwell in possibility every day: possibility rooted in faith, nurtured through relationships, and brought to life through joyful learning. Our Hilltop is more than a campus; it is a home where students are known, valued, and loved.

Our students continue to find their voices and grow in confidence. Middle School students now share their perspectives through the relaunch of Tiger TV, providing a platform for creativity, leadership, and student expression. We also introduced new overnight field trips for each Middle School grade, allowing students to learn beyond the classroom while building independence, responsibility, and deeper relationships with one another.

In the Lower School (1st–4th grade), students are learning what it means to live out their faith through service, creativity, and initiative. Through the Angels Attic project, students designed, created, advertised, and sold handmade Christmas ornaments, learning valuable lessons in entrepreneurship while also embracing the call to serve others. All proceeds were donated to charity, reinforcing that at St. Luke's, success is measured not only by what we achieve, but by how we give.

In Early Childhood (PK3–Kindergarten), innovation has taken root through the Early Childhood Innovation Lab. This hands-on learning environment empowers our youngest Tigers to explore, experiment, and make decisions—fostering curiosity, confidence, and a love of learning from the very beginning. These experiences reflect our belief that children thrive when they are actively engaged and encouraged to wonder.

Athletics and extracurriculars have continued to unite and inspire our community. We celebrated an undefeated sixth-grade volleyball season, a testament to teamwork, perseverance, and sportsmanship. Across all grade levels, students are learning the importance of commitment, resilience, and supporting one another—skills that extend far beyond the field or court.

“At St. Luke’s, we dwell in possibility every day: possibility rooted in faith, nurtured through relationships, and brought to life through joyful learning.”

Our families remain at the heart of all we do. Their dedication was evident through a remarkable milestone: 100% participation in the Annual Fund for the second year in a row. This extraordinary show of support affirms a shared belief in our mission and a collective investment in the future of St. Luke’s.

We also expanded how we share our story beyond the Hilltop with the launch of Our View from the Hilltop: The St. Luke’s Podcast. Through monthly episodes, we have created new opportunities to connect, reflect, and celebrate the people and experiences that make our school unique.

As we look ahead, we continue to dwell in possibility, trusting God’s guidance as we build upon the strong foundation of St. Luke’s Episcopal School. Together, we are creating a community that truly feels like home—grounded in faith, filled with possibility, and deeply rooted in love.

With gratitude and excitement,

— *Mike Jenkins, Head of School*



THE

FEBRUARY 17 - SHROVE TUESDAY

5:30 pm - Pancake Dinner hosted by the SLEC Youth Group and the Brotherhood of St. Andrew
5:30 pm - Children's Ministry Second Line Parade

FEBRUARY 18 - ASH WEDNESDAY

Imposition of Ashes -
8:00 am (SLES Chapel), 12:00 pm, and 6:00 pm with the choir

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

5:30 pm - Dinner and Discussion
February 25 - St. Luke's
March 4 - Reconciliation
March 11 - St. George's
March 18 - St. Paul's
March 25 - Resurrection

MARCH 27

9:00 am - 1:00 pm - Palm Cross Workshop hosted by the St. Francis Guild

MARCH 29 - THE SUNDAY OF THE PASSION: PALM SUNDAY

The Palm Sunday liturgy at all four services
Deadline: Easter Egg donations due

MARCH 30 - APRIL 1 - HOLY WEEK

5:30 pm - Holy Communion in Christ the King Chapel
Deadline: Easter Lily dedications due March 30

APRIL 2 - 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 - 8:00 am - Maundy Thursday Vigil into Good Friday morning

APRIL 3 - GOOD FRIDAY

12:00 pm - The Good Friday Liturgy in the church
**Church office closes at noon*

APRIL 4 - HOLY SATURDAY

7:30 pm - The Great Vigil of Easter in the church followed by the Easter Vigil celebration in the parlors

SEA



**APRIL 5 - THE FEAST OF THE RESURRECTION:
EASTER SUNDAY**

7:00 am - Holy Eucharist, Rite Two in the
Outdoor Columbarium, Sunrise Service

9:00 am - Choral Eucharist, Rite Two, with accompaniment

10:00 am - Flowering of the Cross

10:30 am - Easter Egg Hunt and breakfast on the South Lawn

11:00 am - Choral Eucharist, Rite Two, with accompaniment

6:00 pm - Holy Eucharist, Rite Two

...

SON

Music

FOR THE SEASON AHEAD

My recent annual report began with Lent 2025, and here we are again in 2026. Possibly our richest and certainly busiest season of the year, Ash Wednesday falls on February 18.



I like to provide something musically familiar so there's a comfort/meditative perspective, but I also like to include something new that deserves to be heard or maybe provides a different viewpoint. This season has familiar favorites, like Stainer's "God so loved the world", Howell's "Like as the hart", Purcell's "Hear my prayer", but we have two new pieces of repertoire: Grotenhuis' "Blessed be the Name of the Lord" (Palm Sunday), and Alice Parker's "Hark, I hear the harps eternal"; both American composers. Easter Day spotlights Parry's Psalm 122: I was glad.

Following Easter we perform the rest of Vaughan Williams' Five Mystical Songs, notably the luscious Rise heart, thy Lord is risen. Vaughan Williams was an avowed atheist but he wrote a large volume of church music, and it continues to be performed around the globe.

To round out the Easter season, we have a unique Festal Evensong when the choir will perform Benjamin Britten's anthem Rejoice in the Lamb, which takes its text from Christopher Smart's epic poem: "Jubilate Agno". (2026 is the fiftieth anniversary year of Britten's death.) Smart was an inmate of the Northampton Insane Asylum and would write sitting in the portico of All Saints' Church. The Britten anthem was commissioned by the rector of St. Matthew's, Northampton (the Rev'd Walter Hussey) bringing everything to a pleasing whole.

We still have some CDs available of our recent recording: "True Light". Please let Russell or a choir member know if you would like to purchase any; proceeds support our residency at Durham Cathedral in 2027.

—*Russell Jackson, Music Director and Organist*

“Possibly our richest and certainly busiest season of the year.”

Parishioner Profile

Josten Rodriguez

Josten Rodriguez grew up in San Antonio and graduated from Samuel Clemens High School.

But here's the thing. He was born at Dyess Air Force Base in Abilene, Texas, while his father was stationed there in the USAF. Soon thereafter the family was transferred to Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Josten says Abilene was in his "pre-cognizant years so he doesn't remember Abilene." Being born in Abilene Josten, makes you a good West Texan. So there.

After his high school days, he worked in pharmaceuticals research at Clinical Trials of Texas. Along the way he was a rock star, a drummer in the heavy metal band Saving Solace. They toured, and they recorded under the label Sumerian.

He is from a three-generation military family, mostly air force, and he "wanted to do service. I watched police officers doing their jobs, so I applied to the police academy."

He is now into his ninth year with the Selma Police Department. "The job has its moments," he said, "but it's very satisfying. I have seen good things on the worst days. There is always some way to help those in need."

Along the way in these years with the Selma PD, he has helped train other officers in jiu jitsu. He previously was into the martial arts and he is seriously thinking of "getting back into them."

"I was always a believer — but not necessarily a follower."



"I grew up in a Christian home, Baptist and non-denominational" he said. "I was always a believer but not necessarily a follower." So recently he began to research various denominations and found the Episcopal church and the 6 p.m. service at St. Luke's. While the 6 p.m. service is not set in stone for Josten, it often best fits his work schedule of 12-hour shifts.

"I met people there and I met Father Irv." Josten was baptized last

December at St. Luke's, and he has a plan going forward. He will go through the process of confirmation and then be confirmed on May 31 during the bishop's visit to St. Luke's.

And here's one highlight of that plan. May 31 is his birthday.

— Wayne Witt, Parish Reporter



The Community of Hope: Serving at St. Luke's Episcopal Church

EMPOWERING COMPASSIONATE CARE AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH

St. Luke's Episcopal Church is home to a vibrant ministry known as the Community of Hope, an organization dedicated to cultivating compassionate care within both the church and the broader community. Rooted in the Benedictine tradition, the Community of Hope equips lay members with skills in pastoral care, spiritual listening, and emotional support, empowering them to serve as extensions of Christ's love.

Members of the Community of Hope undergo specialized training in topics such as active listening, grief support, confidentiality, and self-care. This education enables them to minister to individuals facing life's challenges, whether illness, loss, loneliness, or times of transition. Volunteers are matched with those in need, offering visits, phone calls, or simply a reassuring presence to help foster hope and healing.

Beyond direct care, the Community of Hope also nurtures the spiritual lives of its participants. Monthly meetings provide opportunities for reflection, prayer, and ongoing learning, strengthening the sense of shared purpose and deepening participants' connection to God and one another. The group's work complements the pastoral efforts of clergy, forming a network of support that is responsive and compassionate. Through its dedication to service, the Community

of Hope at St. Luke's Episcopal Church embodies the church's mission to love and serve its neighbors. The ministry not only meets practical needs but also encourages a spirit of kindness, inclusion, and hope that radiates throughout the parish and the wider community.



In 2025, the members of Community of Hope made 180 visits and had 370 pastoral encounters in the greater community. On December 14, two new and 3 current members were commissioned as lay chaplains for 2026 and our opportunities to offer quiet support continue to grow.

The Community of Hope at St. Luke's is planning a fall training for new lay chaplains. Ask a Lay Chaplain for more information, or contact Mary Tacy Young at marytyoung@gmail.com.

Caregiver's Support Group at St. Luke's Episcopal Church

A MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY AND COMPASSION

The Caregiver's Support Group at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, part of the church's Community of Hope ministry, is dedicated to serving those who provide care and support to others facing health, emotional, or other challenges. Caregivers may include family members tending to be aging parents, spouses supporting partners or children through illness or disabilities, friends or neighbors giving occasional care, and even professional caregivers. In essence, anyone who takes on the responsibility of looking after another person's well-being or providing emotional or physical support can be considered a caregiver.

The purpose of the Caregiver's Support Group is to offer a safe and nurturing environment where caregivers can share their experiences, seek advice, and develop a mutual support system. Meetings are structured to provide a blend of practical information, resource sharing, and guided reflection rooted in the church's values of hope and compassion. Group members benefit from the opportunity to connect with others who understand the unique challenges of caregiving, reducing feelings of isolation and stress.

By participating in the support group, caregivers gain access to a network of peers, professional resources, and spiritual guidance. They can learn effective coping strategies, receive affirmation for their efforts, and discover new ways to care for themselves while continuing to support their loved ones. The Caregiver's Support Group at St. Luke's Episcopal Church is a vital ministry, fostering resilience and hope in the lives of those who give so much to others. The group meets weekly on Thursdays, from 10:30 am – 12:00 pm. For more information contact Mary Tacy Young at maryyoung@gmail.com.

Generosity at St. Luke's Church

Generous hearts make all the difference in a thriving congregation. When people give of themselves generously, their offerings help provide the resources the church needs to flourish and to pursue its mission.

At St. Luke's Church, generosity takes many forms. We thought it would be good to highlight a few recent examples.

Proceeds from Chrismon Sales

Many people know about the beautiful Chrismon ornaments that members of the St. Francis Guild produce throughout the year. They're available for sale in the weeks before Christmas. Last year, the proceeds from those sales were \$2,495. St. Francis Guild has donated those proceeds to the Operating Fund.

We have so many stories we could tell! These stories are just a few examples of the generous hearts at St. Luke's. We hope you'll be inspired to celebrate what God has done for you and remember the church as your own heart grows in generosity in the days to come.

The Estate of Joe Lee Hensley

When parishioner Joe Lee Hensley, a resident at the Towers on Park Lane, would visit with clergy, he told them several times that he had a provision in his estate plan directing that the church would receive the co-op that he lived in. Joe Lee passed away last summer, and we learned recently that we are indeed in a position to take ownership of that unit.

The Towers describes itself as a “premier resort-style high-rise for active adults 55+”. As they consider how to make use of this gift, the Vestry may decide to put it on the market.



Are you interested in living at the Towers? Or do you know someone who might want to move there? Several parishioner are already residents there. If you'd like to learn more about this 2-bedroom, 2-bath unit on the 11th floor of the Towers, please contact Angie Hudgins at the church, angieh@slccsa.org or 210-828-6425.

The Guenther Endowment Fund

The Jack and Valerie Guenther Foundation Endowment Fund was established at the end of 2024 with a generous gift from the Jack and Valerie Guenther Foundation. The Fund was set up with a provision that proceeds could be used to underwrite the rector's compensation from year to year, freeing up the church's resources to fund other ministries.

Jack Guenther and his children Jack Guenther, Jr. and Abigail Guenther Kampmann, Trustees of the Guenther Foundation, made another donation of \$500,000 at the beginning of 2026 in memory of Jack's wife Valerie Urschel Guenther. This very generous gift almost doubles the size of the Guenther Endowment Fund, making it an even more important financial resource for the church.

We appreciate so much the Guenther family's generous spirit, and their attention to detail in setting up protections that will preserve the Fund and ensure that it will grow well into the future. The Guenthers have been very forward-thinking in this gift. We hope that their generous contribution will be an inspiration to others – if you would like to discuss how you might make a gift that could make a difference well into the future, please reach out to the Rector or to any of the Trustees of the Permanent Endowment Trust.



Easter Lily Dedications

DONATE BY MONDAY, MARCH 30

Sponsor a lily that will decorate the church this Easter for a donation of \$25. They make beautiful memorials, thanksgiving offers, honorariums, or celebrations of friends and family members

Your name and dedication will be printed in the Easter bulletins. Ordering opens March 1, with instructions to follow soon in the Sunday bulletins.

Easter Egg Donations

DONATE BY SUNDAY, MARCH 29
(PALM SUNDAY)

Prefilled Easter Eggs needed. Toys and heat-tolerant candy are most welcome.

Drop Off Location: Church Narthex

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Executive Summary
2026 Annual Budget - General Operating Fund
(\$ in Thousands)

	Budget 2026	Budget 2025	Actual 2025
Revenues and Public Support			
Current year pledges	\$ 982.7	\$ 999.4	\$ 982.5
Non-pledged + Past year pledges	339.8	325.5	253.0
Open Plate Offerings	23.0	23.0	21.3
Net contributions	1,345.5	1,347.9	1,256.8
PET distribution	219.7	201.2	201.3
Other revenue	178.8	148.7	160.7
Total Revenues	1,744.0	1,697.8	1,618.8
Program and Operating Expenses			
Salaries and wages	767.7	763.9	745.5
Employee related benefits	224.2	233.9	216.2
Diocesan apportionment	280.3	274.9	274.8
Church ministry	70.1	72.4	57.0
Administration and operations	72.4	75.0	76.5
Church building and grounds	337.4	329.1	324.0
Total Program and Operating Expenses	1,752.1	1,749.2	1,694.0
Income (loss) from operations	\$ (8.1)	\$ (51.4)	\$ (75.2)
Other Cash Flow Considerations			
Available cash at beginning of year	\$ 8,000.0		
	-		
Accounts Payable	-		
Operating Cash Flow at end of year	\$ -		

This budget assumes that we will identify an additional \$50,000 in revenue to cover budgeted expenses. If you have not yet made a pledge for this year, or if you would like to make a one-time contribution, please contact our Parish Administrator Angie Hudgins at 210-828-6425 or angieh@slecsa.org. Or click the "GIVE" button at the top of <https://slecsa.org>.

If you have any questions, please contact the Treasurer, Jon Sandidge or the Parish Administrator, Angie Hudgins at (210) 828-6425

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San Antonio, TX 78209

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EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL

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