

# TIDINGS

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

*In this issue:*

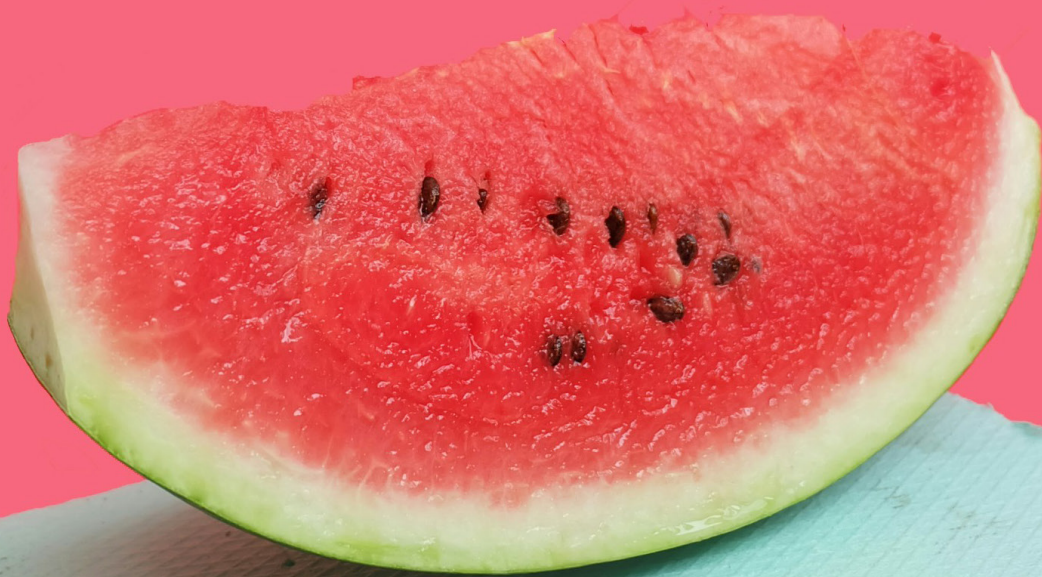
**Summer Mission Week**

**Farewell Rev. Reagan**

**Vacation Bible School**

**Music Schedule**

*and more!*



PENTECOST  
& SUMMER



ST. LUKE'S  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL

Vol. 65.2

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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@slecsa.org](mailto:saras@slecsa.org). Upcoming baptism dates in 2024 are:

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 had the great privilege of spending a weekend last month at St. Mark's Church in Beaumont, where I got to be their guest preacher on Sunday morning.

Right after graduating from seminary, I was assigned to be a curate at St. Mark's. (Not sure what a "curate" is? See the article on pg. 5.) I left St. Mark's in 2001 to become rector of a church in Houston. I visited once in 2006, but otherwise I haven't been back since.

One of the fun aspects of my visit in April was the chance to reconnect with old friends – the organist with whom I served is now retired, but he came back to church that day so that he could see me. And I enjoyed having lunch with a couple whose wedding was just my second wedding to officiate. The Senior Warden is a young woman who was in high school when I was there. So, our visit was a great opportunity to reminisce.

But another fun aspect was seeing all the people who have joined St. Mark's since 2001. A lot can change in a congregation in 23 years, so most people there had no idea who I was.

My visit was a powerful reminder of how a community evolves over time. It's no different here at St. Luke's. You might think of yourself. Were you here in 2001? If so, think about all the changes you've seen over the past couple of decades. Have you joined since 2001? You might think of all the

history that preceded you, and you might remember that just as people welcomed you as a newcomer, you now get the chance to welcome people to your church home.

Any church will have transitions over time, as people come and go, and as staff members come and go. We'll have our own transitions this summer, as we bid farewell to Rebecca Koch, our contemporary music leader for the 9:00 am service, and to the Rev. Reagan Gonzalez, our Associate Rector. We'll also get to welcome Tanner Ambs and his family, and the School is looking forward to welcoming Mike Jenkins in July as its new Head of School.

As much as I enjoyed my visit to Beaumont, I sure was glad to return to San Antonio and to St. Luke's. I give thanks for my place here, and I give thanks for the chance to share life with you here on the Hilltop. We may not know what St. Luke's will be like years in the future, but we can be confident that the Holy Spirit will still be present, seeking to guide the church community as it strives to be faithful to God's will.

See you Sunday,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "IRV +". The letters are stylized and somewhat cursive.

**The Rev. Irving Cutter, Rector**

# THANK YOU, REV. REAGAN!

The Rev. Reagan Gonzalez announced last month that she has accepted the call to become the next Rector of the Church of the Reconciliation, San Antonio. Rev. Reagan became our Associate Rector in fall 2020.

She writes:

Dear St. Luke's,

**S**ome love letters are more difficult to write than others. It is with a heart full of gratitude for St. Luke's that I write to tell you that I have been called as the next Rector of Church of Reconciliation in San Antonio.

It has been an absolute privilege to be your Associate Rector these last three and a half years. My time with you has brought me great joy, and I consider it an honor to have been welcomed into your presence, to know you, and to do ministry together. I am thankful to Irv for his good leadership, mentorship, and guidance, along with the staff, vestry, and leadership I've had the gift of working with during my time at St. Luke's.

Without a doubt, I am a better priest and human being for having known and served you. I will always carry love and gratitude for you. It has been a humbling and holy thing to be invited into your lives. I thank God for each of you and for the parts of our stories that will forever be intertwined.

My last Sunday with you will be May 19, and I look forward to serving and spending as much time with you as possible until then. Bryan will remain on staff in his own capacity as Director of Youth Ministries. As such, our children, James and Cora will also be splitting their time between the two parishes.

My office door remains open, and I look forward to having opportunities to say good-bye to you personally.

With God's peace,

Reagan+

Although Rev. Reagan is moving on, her husband Bryan looks forward to continuing as our Director of Youth Ministries, building on the momentum that we've enjoyed since he took on that position in 2022. Her last Sunday will be May 19: as we celebrate that day the Feast of Pentecost, we'll also get to celebrate the many blessings we've enjoyed during our time with her as a part of the St. Luke's Church community.

Rev. Reagan will be hard to replace, but the Rev. Irv Cutter has begun the search for another priest to join the church staff. Thank you, Reagan, for all that you have offered during your time with us! We pray for abundant blessings for you as you step into your new role.



# WELCOME TO OUR NEW CURATE

On July 1, the Rev. Tanner Ambs will join us as our curate, beginning a two-year assignment at St. Luke's Church.

In the Episcopal Church, we usually use the word "curate" to refer to a newly ordained person, just out of seminary, who does an internship at a church to learn about parish ministry. Tanner has just graduated from the Seminary of the Southwest in Austin and is excited about coming to St. Luke's.

When he starts, Tanner will be a transitional deacon. Our view of ministry recognizes four orders of ministry – laity, deacons, priests, and bishops – and we have a "sequential" understanding of ordination; in effect, before someone is ordained a priest, they are first ordained a deacon. So, Tanner anticipates being ordained a deacon in June, and we hope that perhaps in December he will be ordained a priest.

As a deacon, Tanner will have certain roles in the Sunday liturgy, so we'll look forward to see-

ing him involved in Sunday services and preaching as soon as he arrives. After his priestly ordination, he'll be able to preside at the Eucharist and officiate at weddings and funerals and handle other priestly roles.

During his two years at St. Luke's, our plan is to give him a close-up look at various aspects of parish life, including pastoral visits, working with newcomers, teaching classes, seeing how the vestry works, understanding financial reports. At the end of his two-year assignments, we'll hope Tanner is well prepared for his next call, perhaps becoming priest-in-charge of another congregation.

Tanner grew up in Amarillo, where most of his family still lives, and lived there until he graduated from West Texas A&M University with a bachelor's degree in psychology. He was a choir kid all through high school. Tanner worked at nondenominational churches in youth ministries throughout college. He moved to the San Antonio area immediately following graduation and worked for seven years in mental healthcare as a community case manager. He and Allie were married in 2017 after being introduced by one of Tanner's coworkers.

Before starting seminary, Tanner and Allie were members of St. Margaret's Church, San Antonio. Allie grew up in San Antonio and has family here, so they're delighted to return here after three years of seminary in Austin. They have a 10-month-old child, Lorelei, and they've enjoyed learning about the thriving children's ministries that St. Luke's offers.

Come to church on Sunday, July 7, and help welcome the Ambs family to St. Luke's!



*Tanner and Allie Ambs, with their daughter Lorelei*

# PENTECOST PICNIC

A close-up photograph of a person's hand using tongs to flip a sausage on a charcoal grill. The grill is filled with several sausages and three burgers. The background is a blurred green field, suggesting an outdoor picnic setting.

**SUNDAY**  
**12:30 PM** **MAY 19**

Burgers and hotdogs provided by  
the Brotherhood of St. Andrew.  
Bring a side to share!

# CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRY

*Celebrating Milestones - May 19*

## **TEACHER APPRECIATION DAY**

Sunday School, Mustard Seed, St. Luke's School teachers and our volunteer Sunday school teachers all provided critical support and care for our students at every age. We could not possibly thank them enough, but we offer this time to recognize their efforts and bless them for the coming year. All teachers are invited to come to our 9:00 or 11:00 services for a blessing. Bring your families and stay for our Pentecost Picnic!

Sunday School also continues to play a vital role in nurturing the faith of our young believers. Children who participate experience God's love in community and they are equipped with spiritual tools. We have a wonderful team of volunteers that have been sharing God's love all year long. Let's shower them with our appreciation and love!

### **Preschool Team** (Nursery Staff)

Paula Guajardo, Director	Mary G. Martinez
Alyssa Aguilar	Lisa Chavez
Roxanne Huron	Joanna Cross

### **Godly Play Team** for grades K-1 and 2-3

Cindy Akula	Jackie Ortiz
Victoria Bruns	Ann Allen
Tara Welmaker	Paula Hutton
Ashley Stenonien	

### **Journey Through the Bible Class** for grades 4-5

Caroline Mowen  
Kirstin Silberschlag  
Robin Newman



Join us at the 9:00 or 11:00 am services where we will thank and bless our teachers! Stick around after the 11:00 am service for a church picnic celebration!

**Kris Spilker, Director of Children & Family Ministry**

[www.slecsa.org/children-and-families/](http://www.slecsa.org/children-and-families/)

## Godly Play Trainings

Learning Bible stories told with a Godly Play approach is something that you carry with you throughout your lifetime. As we start to wrap up for the spring, please prayerfully consider learning to be a storyteller or doorkeeper / assistant next school year. There are two Godly Play trainings coming up this Spring/Summer in Central Texas:

- May 25-27 at University UMC in Austin.
- June 6-8 at St. Martin's Lutheran, Sugarland.
- To learn more and register for training, visit [www.godlyplayfoundation.org](http://www.godlyplayfoundation.org).

## ***STEP-UP SUNDAY***

### ***CELEBRATING RISING 6TH GRADERS***

The end of the elementary years and the move into the world of middle school is an important milestone for both students and parents! It has been our tradition here at St. Luke's Church to recognize and bless this time in the life of your family in various ways.

### **Blessing and Bible Presentation**

On Step Up Sunday, May 19, 2023 during both the 9:00 a.m. and the 11:00 a.m. services, Father Irv will call forward all 5th graders and all their families to receive a special prayer and blessing. At that time, they will receive a Teen Study Bible which they are encouraged to use throughout their middle and high school years.





Since parents are the primary spiritual influence in the life of their children, the church is purchasing these Bibles as our gift for parents to give to their rising 6th grader. To learn more and RSVP for a bible, visit [www.slecsa.org/events](http://www.slecsa.org/events). If you will not be here on that Sunday, please sign up for a Bible anyway and then perhaps find a special time when your family can gather and present it to your rising 6th grader!

### **Students vs. Parents Bible Jeopardy**

You are also invited to join your rising 5th grader for our end of year Bible Jeopardy Game and Celebration on this last day of our Journey through the Bible Sunday School Class at 10:00 am in room 215! Bring your bible and join the fun!

### **Invitation to Youth Group**

That evening your rising 6th grader is invited to continue celebrating this milestone by adding his or her handprint to the wall of youth members located in the youth room as they officially join the youth group during the evening session from 5:00 - 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall.

To learn more about our youth ministry and sign up to receive our youth ministries e-news, visit [www.slecsa.org/youth](http://www.slecsa.org/youth). If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. We look forward to sharing this milestone with you and your rising 6th grader!

## **4th-5th Grade Parents and Students!**

***You are invited to our  
Journey through the Bible  
Class Celebration!***

**May 19  
Room 215  
10:00 a.m.**

***Bible Jeopardy  
Parents vs. Students  
Bring your Bibles!***

***Breakfast Tacos  
Coffee and Lemonade***

***"Souvenir" Stand for  
Students!***

## ***SUMMER OFFERINGS***

### **Summer Formation**

10:00 am Formation Hour: During the summer, you and your family are invited to enjoy time with other families and parishioners in an intergenerational gathering in the parlors. More details will be provided closer to the time.

### **All-Parish Pool Parties** at Heights Pool

We plan to have a pool party in July and another in August. This is a great way to connect with other families and parishioners. Keep an eye on our 5 Things and Children and Family Ministries e-news for upcoming details. If you have not signed up for either e-news, you can go to our website to do so!

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: *Hometown Nazareth***

June 17-21 from 9:00am- 12pm

For ages Rising PreK4 - 5th Grade

### ***PARTICIPANTS***

Children, teens, and adults will travel together to various places in the town of Nazareth that we'll set up around campus. Click the QR code to learn more and register your children ages rising PreK4 - 5th grade.

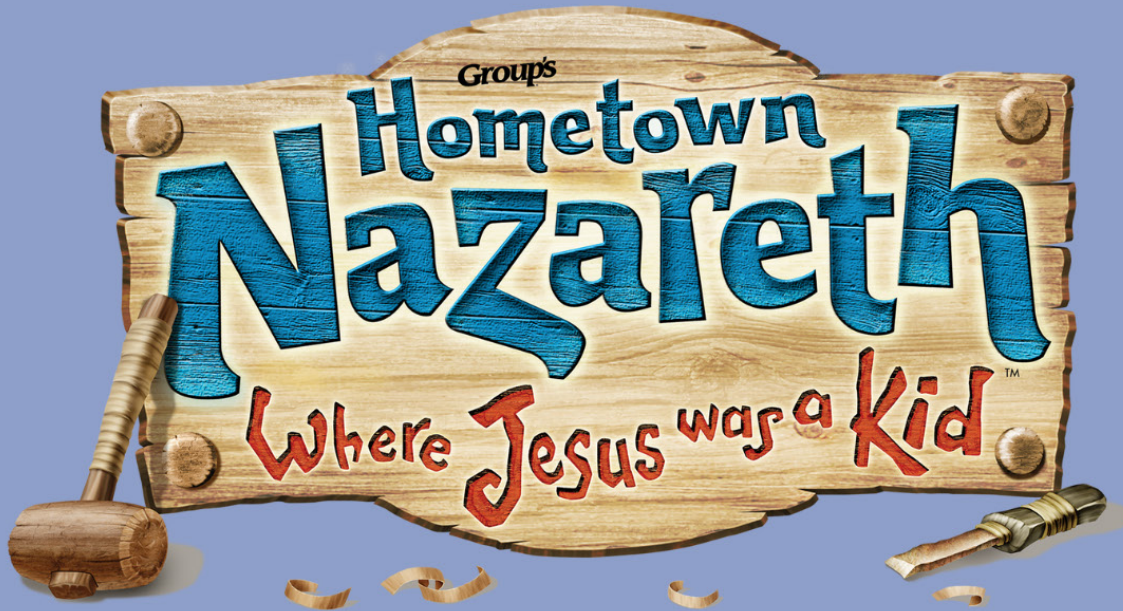
### ***TEEN AND ADULT VOLUNTEERS*** - Rising 6th graders and up!

We need plenty of adult and teen volunteers, so there is something at VBS for the whole parish. This is prime time to sign up play a certain role. At this point we need group leaders, certain station or "shop" leaders, and 2 people to lead fun and games in the gym. Teen volunteers can receive volunteer hours for their service.

Be sure to save these dates for training and set up prep! For safeguarding reasons, June 15 is mandatory for all volunteers.

- June 6 - Work Evening / Decoration Creation 5-7:00 pm. Light dinner included.
- June 13 - Work Evening / Decoration Creation 5-7:00 pm. Light dinner included.
- June 15 - All volunteer training followed by decorating and set up 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.
- June 21 - All Volunteers stay for light lunch and pitch in to clean up campus together 12-2:00pm.

# ST. LUKE'S VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR  
PARTICIPANTS AND VOLUNTEERS



SCAN THE QR CODE  
FOR DETAILS!

JUNE 17-21



*St. Luke's Episcopal Church Fall Fête & Fundraiser*

SAVE THE DATE



**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2024**

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

*St. Luke's Episcopal Church & School Gymnasium*

# PARISHIONER PROFILE

## *Hannah Horn*

**H**annah Horn is a third generation St. Luke's parishioner and to say she is involved in being part of Christ's light on the hill could just be an understatement.

First, her heritage and then to Hannah personally.

Her grandparents on her mother's side are longtime parishioners Mary and Aaron Penaloza. Her father is David, her mother is Catherine (Penaloza) and her brother is Allen. St. Lukesters all. Oh, Catherine will be mentioned again later.

"I love St. Luke's," Hannah said. "I grew up here, I came every week, I put on my name tag, and I sang along. As I grew older, I truly fell in love even more with St. Luke's."

Hannah is becoming a time management expert. She is ahead of that learning curve.

At St. Luke's she is the youth representative to the Vestry. At each Vestry meeting she delivers a report about recent and upcoming youth activities. She then reports back to the youth group about actions in the Parish generally. "I am excited about this. I am only the second youth to ever be a Vestry representative," Hannah said.

She is an acolyte. She is a faithful participant in the weekly youth activities. Last October she was in the group that made a field trip to Laredo, and she has plans to be a part of this July's mission week "Serving Our Neighbors: Mission SA". The week will



be filled with activities concerning migrants and refugees in San Antonio.

Then there is Hannah's world of education. She is a freshman at San Antonio's Madison High School. She is active in the school's theater program. She is involved with the Book Club. And she is a good student.

Now back to Hannah's lineage—her mother Catherine.

As a youngster at St. Luke's Catherine was in the first-ever youth group to rappel down the church belltower. And she was in the LAST youth group to do that!

"Yes," said Hannah, "I've heard that story many, many times."

**Wayne Witt, Parish Reporter**

# MUSIC AT ST. LUKE'S

Most of the heavy lifting this season is now done. We celebrated wonderful and meaningful services during Holy Week and Easter, and we have one final concert to round out this season.

Our Celebrity Organ Concert will be given on May 5 (*Cinco de Mayo*) at 3:00 pm by Jeremiah Stephenson. He is organist at the famous church of All Saints', Margaret Street, London, and is a distinguished artist on the European Continent as well as having toured the US a couple of years ago. This is a free concert and we invite you to enjoy a thrilling program, and meet the artist at a special reception following. Introduce a friend to St. Luke's and our Music Program.

During the summer we will be updating the organ combination action with the latest software and well as refining some of the voicing.

Then I will be making a new recording for Raven CD, *Organ Contrasts*, which will be released in the fall.

We already have the New Concert Series lined up for 2024-2025, though two dates aren't yet totally inscribed in stone.

As often happens there will likely be additional opportunities that arise during the season, and we will keep you informed of those.

During the summer of 2025, we will be making a new Choir CD: *True Light*. This will reflect different genres of music, namely Gospel and Soul, with a few surprises. Featuring Duke Ellington, Keith Hampton, Moses Hogan, Edwin Hawkins.

And looking even further ahead, we will be Choir-in-Residence at Durham Cathedral, UK, singing from July 19-25 (2027) at the Eighth Wonder of the World. It gets no better than this!

## **OCTOBER 27, 7:00PM – Silent Movie Night**

A repeat of the *Phantom of the Opera*, due to high demand. Next year we will feature the Hunchback of Notre Dame.

## **DECEMBER 8, 3:00PM – Handel's *Messiah***

The Choir of St. Luke's with Soloists performs this much-loved Christmas staple. We will be accompanied by a chamber orchestra for this performance.

## **MARCH 30, 3:00PM – Mozart's *Requiem***

One of the most poignant and dignified pieces of choral music ever written; Mozart lay dying as he wrote it. Performed by St. Luke's Choir and Soloists.

## **APRIL 27, 3:00PM – Organ Concert**

Richard Pinel was a chorister of mine back in the 90s! Since then he has toured the world. He was organist at Perth Cathedral, Australia, and St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, Music Director at Jesus College, Cambridge, and teaches at the Royal Academy of Music.

**Russell Jackson, Director of Music**

# ST. FRANCIS GUILD

The mission of the St. Francis Guild is to join with members of St. Luke's to serve Christ to the glory of God by decorating the church for Christmas and Easter celebrations, sponsoring a Palm Cross Workshop, and providing fellowship among members.

We also get together once a month to make Chrismons. A Chrismon is a monogram of Christ (chris-mon) and a symbol of the Christian faith. Symbols are various crosses, angels, butterflies, hearts, fish, dove, shells, and the Chi Rho. Chrismons are constructed of white felt and decorated with silver, white, or gold sequins, lace, beads, pearls, etc. Each member uses their own ideas and creativity in designing and decorating the symbols. When finished, another member then backs the ornaments and attaches ribbons for hanging and tags explaining the symbols.

Chrismon crosses are presented to those who are baptized, and during Easter, Chrismon butter-

flies are given to church members who are home bound. We also offer them for sale on Sundays during Advent and on Mothers' Day with the proceeds going to the church. Chrismons are offered for sale to St. Luke's School parents and grandparents at their school programs. Monies raised are then given to the school.

This article is an appeal for help in making Chrismons. No experience necessary! We supply the materials, patterns, and teach you how to make them! It is needlework handwork and can be done while watching TV, waiting in offices for appointments, sitting on an airplane: anywhere, anytime! Strangers may ask you what you are doing and you can explain what a Chrismon is and thus spread God's love. Please call Marilyn Jones at (210) 244-3022 or Ann Mewborne at (210) 421-9631 with questions or anything. We are excited to help you start creating Chrismons!





## Now Accepting Students for the 24-25 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.

### Apply Today!

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](mailto:admissions@sles-sa.org).



# MUSTARD SEED

It is hard to believe that the 2023-24 school year is almost over for The Mustard Seed. Our last day of school is on May 16. We have been enjoying all the security upgrades that were implemented over the past year. Our new classroom doors and windows have given a fresh and updated look to our space. The children look forward to seeing the SAPD Officers each day, and they often wave and have conversations with the on-duty officers. We are very grateful to have them on our campus.

The Mustard Seed has again been blessed with a wonderful group of parent volunteers who have helped with our school parties and showering our staff with appreciation. Our parents planned and organized our holiday parties as well as our upcoming End of Year Sprinkler Day. Each party was unique and had a special surprise. We had a face painter at our Halloween party, crafts at our Thanksgiving party, story time with Santa and Christmas carols with Rick Cavender at our Christmas party,



and a petting zoo at our Easter egg hunt and picnic. Our parents arranged for Miss Anastasia to visit in January, and she read “Tacky the Penguin” and “Your Personal Penguin” to our students. We will also have guest author, Sharon Miller, come on May 1 to read her new book “Finley Finds Her Way”.

The Mustard Seed students were able to participate in some of the St. Luke’s Episcopal School activities during the school year, as well. In September, we celebrated International Dot Day with a reading of “The Dot” and wearing polka dots to school along with the Early Childhood students. In

October, the Alamo Heights Fire Department visited and gave a presentation on fire safety which also included a tour of the fire trucks. Our early care students attended the SLES Blessing of the Pets on the front lawn in October, as well. In December, our students were able to play in the “snow” and take photos with Santa during Holiday on the Hilltop.

In February, the children enrolled in our early care program were able to enjoy breakfast tacos and music by Rick Cavender on Rodeo Day. We followed this up by having our own Rodeo activities for all our students. The SLES Book Fair was also held in February, and our families were invited to go up to the beautiful library and purchase books. In April, we went to the McNab Gymnasium to see King Antonio and the Cavaliers. Rey Feo came to visit SLES in March after our school day was over this year, so we were unable to see him and his court. Hopefully, we will be able to see Rey Feo next year.

The Mustard Seed has a few openings left



for the 2024-25 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](mailto:mustardseed@slecsa.org) or call (210) 828-6425 ext. 254.

Do you enjoy being around young children ages 18 months – 3 ½ years old? We are in need of substitute teachers for next school year. A typical day is from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm, and you will be in the classroom with one of the regular teachers. A Diocesan background check, current Safeguarding God’s Children, and a state background check including fingerprinting are required.

**Jennie McLendon, Director of The Mustard Seed**

# YOUTH MINISTRY

Summer is nearly upon us, and with the temperatures already heating up I am proud to say that the St. Luke's youth group has been hard at work and are ready for a summer full of service and fellowship. The youth started the year strong with the return of Sunday morning and evening sessions. In addition to our traditional Sunday meeting times, the youth began a new Wednesday night intergenerational offering focused on playing Dungeons & Dragons. These evenings have seen a wide range of parishioners come together and engage in meaningful fellowship.

Starting just before Lent, many of our youth went through the confirmation classes in preparation of our annual visit from the Bishop, and this year we welcomed four of our youth into full membership in the Episcopal Church and we offer our deepest congratulations! The youth also helped kick off the season of Lent by hosting the annual pancake dinner along with the Brotherhood of St. Andrew. As we prepare to transition to our summer schedule, we look forward to many outings, adventures, and opportunities to live into our callings from Christ.

If you are hoping to start the summer 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.

## Summer Classes & Schedule

Sunday evening sessions will continue to meet weekly throughout the summer with middle and high school combining. Throughout the summer months these classes will be a mix of book studies, lessons, and allow for our youth to continue to come together and find a place to relax during these busy travel months.

In addition to our regular classes, there will be several youth outings and special events that will see our youth travel off campus in celebration of their ministry. Our first will be an end of year celebration at Altitude Trampoline Park, Friday May 31. For all other special events this summer please visit the Church's website for more details as they are made available.

Our summer morning formation will also continue to meet each week during the 10:00 am hour. At the moment the youth will continue to meet in a weekly designated space while repairs are ongoing to the youth room. We look forward to the return of our space in the near future and the opportunities of a redesigned space to better suit the youth group's needs.

### Green Door Volunteers

The Green Door needs help keeping tidy. We need someone to sweep the floor daily, take away the trash & recycling, mop a couple of times a week and dust once a week. If we could find volunteers for this task it would be great, but we'll also consider a paid cleaning crew. Pass along referrals to Bonnie Giddens at [bonnie@giddenstx.com](mailto:bonnie@giddenstx.com) or (210) 872-9653.

## Step-up Sunday

May 19 not only marks our celebration of the day of Pentecost but will also see members of our congregation come together and recognize our rising 6th graders as they prepare to enter the youth group with the tradition of presentation of teen bibles at the 9:00 and 11:00 am services.

Later in the day we will see these new youths and all the new members who have joined throughout the year gather during our evening session to add their handprints to the wall in the youth room. There they will have a chance to leave their mark upon the history of our parish and join with all the members who have gone before.

## D&D Wednesdays

We are happy to announce that D&D Wednesdays will be continuing during the summer months! Whether you're a pro, 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 sessions 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 this continued offering and if you have any questions please reach out to Bryan at any time for additional details.

## INTERGENERATIONAL SUMMER FORMATION SUNDAYS AT 10AM

### Spirituality of Hobbies

A few seasons ago we offered the opportunity for parishioners to share about their hobbies. It provided a way for us to get to know one another more deeply, for us to learn new skills, and as a way of remembering that prayer can take many forms.

This summer, Spirituality of Hobbies returns! Each week a different parishioner will present on their hobby, give us a tutorial on its ins and outs, and speak about how their hobby helps them meet God. This class will meet in the Large Conference Room at 10:00 am beginning June 2. If you would like to share your hobby with us contact Bryan Gonzalez to sign up at [bryang@slecsa.org](mailto:bryang@slecsa.org).

This class is for middle and high school **youth and adults**. We're excited to see what hobbies you are inspired by, and what new communities or groups might come out of these classes. We hope the sharing of hobbies across generations will be inspiring and uplifting.

### Family Formation

During the summer, you and your family are invited to enjoy time with other families and parishioners in an intergenerational gathering in the Parlors during the 10:00 am formation hour. More details will be provided soon.



# SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS YOUTH MISSION:SA

July 21-27



## Serving our Neighbors: Mission SA

We are happy to announce that the SLEC San Antonio week of mission will be held Sunday, July 21 through Saturday, July 27.

This local mission will look different from traditional mission trips. We will begin the week with an overnight lock-in at the Church. Then, throughout the week youth will gather at St. Luke's for breakfast before setting out for planned events each day. We will finish each day with a shared meal and time for fellowship before the youth are picked up. To cap off this week of service, we plan to end with a lock-in Friday night and have Saturday serve as a fun day for the youth in thanks for their work. The three goals of this mission are:

**Bryan Gonzalez, Director  
of Youth Ministry**

**1) Education:** Ensuring that those participating gain a deeper understanding of the current state of immigration we as a border diocese and as a nation are facing. We will also explore the history of immigration both in Texas and the nation, and the role the Episcopal church has played in immigration ministry.

**2) Fieldwork:** Participants each day will go out and serve at various nonprofits and organizations throughout the city that are focused on helping those who are currently going through the immigration process.

**3) Parish Involvement:** While this is a predominantly a youth mission experience, one of my greatest hopes is that we will engage non youth members of our parish by hosting talks and presentations at St. Luke's and have meaningful intergenerational engagement that strengthens our parish in answering our call from Christ to serve all those around us.

# Capital Campaign Update

*St. Luke's Church is Debt-Free*

At the beginning of 2021, our congregation embarked on a three-year capital campaign: “Transformation and Celebration”, an effort to make significant improvements to our campus. After getting input from parishioners, the Vestry committed to a campaign with five goals:

- Acquire a new pipe organ.
- Tend to the stained glass in the nave.
- Address the church’s aging infrastructure.
- Tend to our exterior spaces.
- Update the Parlors.

We engaged the Reuter Organ Company, and the new pipe organ was completed in late 2022. Cavallini Glass Company refurbished and restored our windows in summer 2022. Some components of our aging HVAC system have been replaced, and we are currently replacing the cooling tower that services the DiRaddo Building, a project that we hope will be completed this summer.

We are working with the Rialto Studio to develop a master landscaping plan that can guide us in the future as we address accessibility issues and try to make the best use of exterior spaces like the South Lawn. Finally, we hope at some point to come up with a plan to refresh the Parlors and the kitchenette and restrooms that are nearby.

At the beginning of the campaign, we invited people to fulfill campaign pledges over three years. We knew we would need to cover expenses before those pledge contributions came in. So, the church borrowed money from our Permanent Endowment Trust (PET). This financing arrangement was critical to the success of the campaign.

Three years later, we can celebrate that we had almost 100% of pledgers fulfill their commitments. Because of the generous hearts of people who were inspired to support the campaign, we had enough funds to accomplish the first three goals, and we have funds to make good progress on the last two goals. **And in April, the church paid off its obligation to the PET.**

**This is a significant development.** In the past, PET Trustees have lent money to the church and later had to forgive the debt because the church wasn’t in a strong enough position to repay the loan. Our ability to repay the PET in this case demonstrates our current vitality.

We can give thanks for everyone who supported the campaign. A few gifts were especially critical:

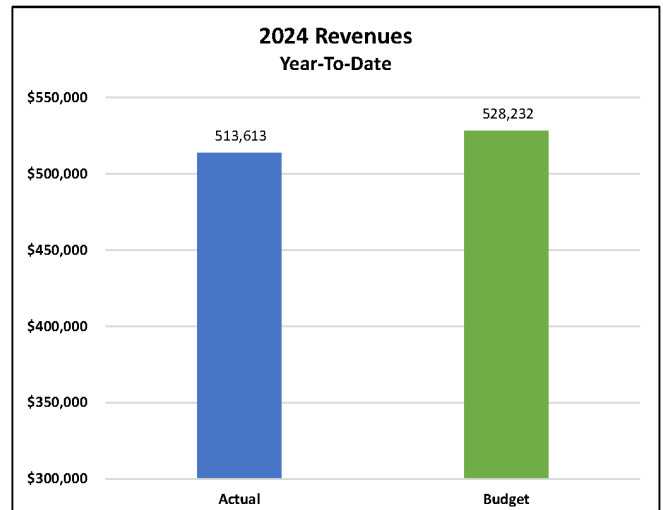
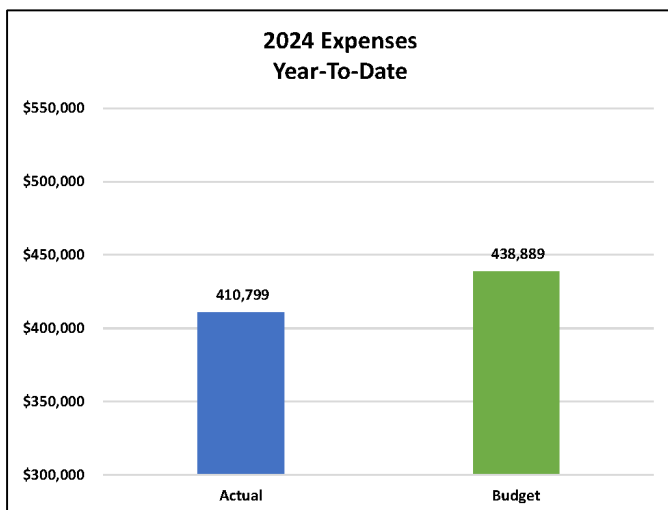
- A lead gift from **Art Bayern** to get us well-positioned to acquire the new pipe organ.
- A challenge gift from **Jack and Valerie Guenther**, who inspired several other people to fund the work on the stained glass.
- An additional gift from the Guenthers, which helped put us in a position to repay the note to the PET.

“Transformation and Celebration” has invigorated the church in so many ways. Because of people’s generous participation, we are well-positioned for the coming days!

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 - March 31, 2024

	<i>Year-To-Date</i>		<b>Annual Budget</b>
	<b>Actual 3/31/24</b>	<b>Budget 3/31/24</b>	
<b>Revenues</b>			
<i>Contributions</i>			
Current year pledges	\$ 277,971	\$ 268,715	\$ 995,242
Nonpledged gifts	26,671	40,500	225,000
Loose plate offerings	7,800	6,300	21,000
Prior year pledges	5,422	13,000	13,000
Special offerings	1,115	4,500	9,000
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>318,979</b>	<b>333,015</b>	<b>1,263,242</b>
<i>Other Revenue</i>			
Endowment Trust Distribution	174,842	174,842	174,842
Fundraising Event (S. L. Live)	-	-	65,000
Interest and Other Income	19,792	20,375	80,400
<b>Total Other Revenue</b>	<b>194,634</b>	<b>195,217</b>	<b>320,242</b>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>513,613</b>	<b>528,232</b>	<b>1,583,484</b>
<b>Program and Operating Expense</b>			
Personnel Costs	243,591	254,431	976,404
Diocesan Apportionment	62,817	62,817	251,268
Church Ministries	9,895	22,877	99,250
Administration and Operations	19,413	21,432	89,100
Church Building and Grounds	75,083	77,332	309,577
<b>Total Program and Oprtg. Exp.</b>	<b>410,799</b>	<b>438,889</b>	<b>1,725,599</b>
<b>Income (loss) from ops.</b>	<b>\$ 102,814</b>	<b>\$ 89,343</b>	<b>\$ (142,115)</b>



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

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**ST. LUKE'S**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH & SCHOOL

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