stlukesdurham.org

STL ACTS OF FAITH

The Newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



Ten thousand thousand

precious gifts

My daily thanks

employ,

And not the least a

cheerful heart

Which tastes those

gifts with joy.

Amen

--Joseph Addison (1712)

A Season of Gratitude

As we enter this season of thanksgiving, I find myself reflecting on how much there is to be grateful for at St. Luke's. There is a wonderful sense of life and energy in our parish, and I'm grateful for the many ways our community continues to grow and flourish.

Our recent St. Luke's Day celebration, marking our 70th anniversary, was a wonderful example of that. The worship, the lunch, and the fellowship made for a truly meaningful day. I especially appreciated the opportunity to recognize those who have been part of St. Luke's for more than 50 years! Their faithfulness and commitment have helped shape the parish we are today. I'm also deeply grateful to everyone who worked so hard to make the celebration possible. It was an awesome day!

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Beyond that celebration, there is much to be thankful for: new people finding a home at St. Luke's, ministries growing, relationships deepening, and the many ways we continue to serve our wider community. None of this happens without the generosity, commitment, and care of so many people.

On a personal note, I am deeply grateful to be your rector. As I shared on St. Luke's Day, I truly love being at St. Luke's and have developed a deep affection for this parish and its people. It is a privilege to share in this community's life and to be part of what we are building together.

Gratitude is more than a feeling we experience when things are going well. It is a spiritual practice that helps shape how we see and experience the world. When we intentionally pay attention to what is good, beautiful, and meaningful in our lives, we become more aware of the grace that is already present. Gratitude doesn't require us to ignore life's difficulties or pretend everything is wonderful. Rather, it helps us recognize that even in the midst of challenges, there are still gifts to receive and reasons to give thanks.

And like any spiritual practice, gratitude is something we can cultivate. It might be as simple as beginning or ending each day by naming three things for which we're thankful. It might mean taking a moment to appreciate something beautiful, reaching out to someone who has made a difference in our lives, or simply becoming more attentive to the ordinary moments we so often take for granted. Over time, these small practices can change the way we experience our lives and our relationships.

As we move through this season, I encourage each of us to be intentional about practicing gratitude. Not just on Thanksgiving Day, but as a regular part of our spiritual lives. The more we practice noticing the gifts around us, the more we discover how much there is to be grateful for.

Thank you for all the ways you make St. Luke's the community it is. I'm grateful to be part of it and excited about where we're headed together.

In Gratitude,
Greg

All Saints Sunday Celebration!

Join us on All Saints' Sunday, November 1 for a joint service at 10:30 with Iglesia Episcopal El Buen Pastor and St. Luke's as we celebrate All Saints and Día de los Muertos, the Day of the Dead. Together, we will remember those we love who have died and give thanks for the communion of saints that holds us together across generations.

Following worship, we will share lunch with both parishes. The main course will be provided, and St. Lukers are invited to bring a side dish or dessert. Come share in this celebration of remembrance, hope, and our life together!



Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Trunk-or-Treat • Sat, Oct 31, 5:30-7 p.m. • St. Luke's Parking Lot

Community Ofrenda • Sat, Oct 31-Mon, Nov 2, Nave

Daylight Savings Sun, Nov 1 (Fall back)

All Saints' Day Joint Service with EBP • Sun, Nov 1, 10:30 a.m.
followed by lunch in Johnson Hall

Chrismons Workshop • Wed, Nov 4, 1-4 p.m., Kramer Room

Pre-owned Holiday Decorations Sale • Sat, Nov 7 • Johnson Hall

Vestry Election • Sun, Nov 8, 8 & 10:30 services

Ladies' Lunch Bunch • Tues, Nov 10, 11:30 a.m.
(contact Beth Bonner)

St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church Pilgrimage
Sat, Nov 14, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Stillpoint and Wed Night Supper • Wed, Nov 18, Nave and Johnson Hall
5:30 service, 6:00 supper, supper signup deadline Nov 16

Garden Work Day • Sat, Nov 21, 8 a.m.

Advent Begins Sunday, November 29



The Ofrenda: Remembering Those We Love

As St. Luke's and Iglesia Episcopal El Buen Pastor prepare to celebrate All Saints' Day and Día de los Muertos, we invite everyone to participate in the beautiful tradition of the ofrenda, an altar honoring loved ones who have died.

Día de los Muertos, or the Day of the Dead, has its roots in the Indigenous cultures of Mesoamerica. When Spanish Catholicism arrived in the sixteenth century, Indigenous traditions of honoring ancestors became intertwined with the Christian observances of All Saints' and All Souls' Days. Over generations, these traditions developed into a distinctive celebration of remembrance, gratitude, and the enduring connection between the living and the dead.

At the heart of the celebration is the ofrenda, meaning "offering." Traditionally decorated with photographs, candles, marigolds, favorite foods, and treasured objects, the ofrenda honors the lives and memories of those who have gone before us. Rather than hiding death away, this tradition invites us to remember our loved ones with both tenderness and joy.

For Christians, this practice resonates beautifully with the *communion of saints*, our belief that we belong to a community of faith that transcends generations and even death itself. As Paul reminds us in Romans 8, nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God. It is a reminder that death does not have the final word. Resurrection does.

We invite you to bring photographs of loved ones who have died to place on our shared ofrenda. Together, we will remember their lives, give thanks for the love we shared, and celebrate the hope that God's love is greater than death.

Greg Farrand
Rector

A Beautiful Expression of Faith, Love, and Pride



There was something truly wonderful about seeing parishioners from our church walk in this year's Pride Parade on October 3rd. It was more than simply taking part in a celebration; it was a meaningful expression of love, acceptance, and the belief that every person deserves to be welcomed for who they are.

We had a chance to give away some rainbow squeeze hearts that included our St. Luke's message. We laughed and talked with the crowd and heard cheers from groups who seemed to genuinely appreciate our being there to show support. It was great fun! Be sure to participate in next year's parade.

Pride is a celebration of the LGBTQ+ community, but it is also a reminder of how important it is to stand together in the face of prejudice and misunderstanding. For members of a church community to participate sends a powerful message that faith and inclusion can go hand in hand. It shows that the values of compassion, kindness, and respect extend beyond the walls of our church and into the wider community.

Walking alongside our LGBTQ+ neighbors and friends was an opportunity to demonstrate that they are valued, respected, and deserving of love. Sometimes, the simplest actions speak louder than words. Showing up, walking together, smiling, and celebrating sends a message that people do not have to choose between being true to themselves and being accepted by others.
What made the experience especially meaningful was the sense of unity and joy. The parade brought together people from different backgrounds and walks of life, all celebrating the freedom to live openly and authentically. Our parishioners helped demonstrate that a church can be a place of welcome rather than judgment, and that faith can inspire us to build bridges instead of walls.

I hope this experience will continue to inspire our congregation to embrace opportunities to show love and support throughout the year, not just during Pride. True inclusion is demonstrated through our everyday actions, our willingness to listen, and our commitment to treating every person with dignity.

Seeing our parishioners walk in this year's Pride Parade was a beautiful reminder of what a faith community can be at its best. It was an opportunity to live out the values of love, compassion, and acceptance in a visible and joyful way.

Ultimately, the day reminded us that we are all part of one human family. When we walk together, celebrate one another, and make room for everyone, we help create a world where every person knows they are valued and that they belong. That is something truly worth celebrating.



Senior Warden Corner

Hope Galunas

Hello friends!

We have enjoyed a fabulous fall so far with a successful Pumpkin Patch and Animal Blessings, a beautiful 70th anniversary celebration, Looking Forward dinners and Trunk or Treat! November and December will be busy as well as we celebrate All Saints Day with Iglesia Episcopal El Buen Pastor, sell Christmas decorations, elect new Vestry members and plan for the future.

All of these activities require the dedication and participation of many parishioners so I thank you all for the time and love you share. A wonderful example of your dedication was evident when about 55 folks arrived to unload pumpkins and set up our Pumpkin Patch and numerous volunteers sold pumpkins to our friends and neighbors. We receive incredible support from the community and raise significant funds thanks to the work of so many.

Speaking of blessed volunteers, I ask that you get acquainted with the Vestry slate we will vote on in November. Each individual offers unique talents and skills to support St. Luke's as well as love for its mission. Please read about them and get to know them before we vote on November 8th.

The annual Every Member Canvass process is wrapping up but it's not too late to pledge your support for St. Luke's. As Greg said, financial support is one of the ways we express what we value. The Vestry is listening to your input during the Looking Forward dinners and is planning not only next year's budget, but future opportunities to help St. Luke's thrive and grow. We all have many hopes and dreams for St. Luke's!

Thank you for opening your hearts to share your time, talent and treasure with this incredible place.

With a grateful heart,
Hope



Junior Warden's Corner

Steve Dedrick

- A roof leak in the Nave near the Baptismal font was detected and repaired.
- A new, taller step ladder with handrails was added to the church kitchen, providing safer access to the higher cabinets.
- New light poles were installed at the pumpkin patch. They are easier to handle and set up than the previous heavy posts anchored in buckets of concrete.
- Additional roof leaks were found in the Gray Building this month. Repairs are pending the arrival of materials.

Annual Pledge Campaign: Investing in Our Shared Future

While the public phase of our annual pledge campaign comes to a close, our efforts will continue behind the scenes as we work toward reaching our goal. As we continue this effort, I want to express my deep gratitude for the generosity and commitment of our St. Luke's community. We are currently about 85% of the way toward our goal of $450,000, and every pledge brings us closer to making our vision for the coming year a reality.

Thank you to everyone who has already made a pledge, and especially to those who have increased their commitment this year. Your generosity is a meaningful investment in the life and ministry of St. Luke's. I am also deeply grateful to those who shared their personal stories during worship, speaking from the heart about what this community means to them. And a special thank-you to Joan Hodges and Bob King, our pledge campaign co-chairs, for their leadership, dedication, and thoughtful work throughout this campaign.

St. Luke's is experiencing an exciting season of growth and renewed energy. We are welcoming new people, strengthening our ministries, deepening our relationships, and finding new ways to serve our neighbors. This growth is something to celebrate, but it also invites us to invest in the resources, people, and ministries that will help us continue to flourish.

If you haven't yet made your pledge, I encourage you to do so as soon as possible. Your commitment helps our vestry develop a thoughtful and responsible budget for 2027. And if you have already pledged, I invite you to prayerfully consider whether you might be able to increase your commitment. Even modest increases, when shared across our community, can make a significant difference in our ability to grow and expand our ministries.

Stewardship is about more than meeting a financial goal. It's about expressing our gratitude for what we have received and investing in the kind of community we believe St. Luke's is called to be: welcoming, compassionate, spiritually vibrant, and deeply engaged in the world around us.

I'm grateful for what we are building together, and I look forward with hope and excitement to all that lies ahead. Thank you for being part of it.

Greg Farrand, Rector



Parishioner Testimonies Highlight the Every Member Canvass

Former Senior Warden Joan Hodges kicked off this year's pledge campaign in September by focusing on how at St Luke's "we walk together in faith, joy, and service". She reminded us that our pledges provide the parish with the "ability to take that walk with each other", paying for the "foundational structures that allow us to be here and to be supported." Her personal story was singing for many years in the choir with Lorraine Haskell and then visiting her at Duke Regional in her last days. Joan noted how "choir members stepped up when Lorraine fell ill, especially Karen Gray, who took Lorraine into her home, still has Lorraine's dog, and organized a group of us to help clean out Lorraine's house so she could sell it."

The following Sunday new member Ana Valverde told of her journey from attending mass regularly in her native Spain to being away from church for. long period and then finding a home at St Luke's last year after having attended a funeral here ten years earlier and making a mental to check it out "one day". Besides the warm welcome she felt from her first day, she sensed parishioners' "commitment to living their faith", from collecting supplies for earthquake victims and training for ICE observers to the joy experienced by working at the Spring Fling and Pumpkin Patch.

Our third testimony was given by Samantha and Samyra Medina, who shared the ways St Luke's has become family to them, the kind of place where if you're missing from church on Sunday, we notice and where "generosity is not just something we talk about, but something we live".

Finally, on St Luke's Day, Sam Martin reminded us that "stewardship is ultimately about gratitude and service. How can I use what God has given me to love my neighbor and build up community?" He asked us to pray about where our financial gifts can bring hope, comfort, and joy.

Through the formal end of the canvass on St Luke's Day, we have over 82 pledges, about two-thirds of what we eventually expect to get.

So if you haven't yet pledged NOW is the time.

St. Luke's is Offering Styrofoam Recycling

I have disliked Styrofoam for years. I am also amazed that in 2026, it is still sold and widely used. Styrofoam may be cheap, but it is nasty stuff. In fact, when buried in a landfill, Styrofoam (expanded polystyrene, or EPS) is estimated to last 500 years or more, and many sources note that it may effectively never decompose.

The good news is that Styrofoam can be recycled. And rather than throwing away our Styrofoam and adding further to the landfill, we can now bring our (clean) Styrofoam containers and whatnot to St. Luke's. There is a bin in the Sprague Room near the Green Team news awaiting your many Styrofoam donations. No peanuts please!

Amy Davis

Remember to Vote on November 3

As we approach the 2026 midterm elections on Tuesday, November 3, St. Luke's encourages all members to take part in this important civic responsibility. Voting is one way we live out our faith in the public square, using the voice and stewardship entrusted to us as U.S. citizens.

If you did not vote early, please make a plan to vote at your assigned polling place on Election Day. In North Carolina, polls are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., and anyone in line at 7:30 p.m. may still vote.

Not sure where to vote? Look up your polling place and sample ballot at https://vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLkup/.

Remember to bring a photo ID. Accepted forms include a North Carolina driver's license, a U.S. passport, a North Carolina voter photo ID card, a U.S. military or veterans ID card, and certain college or employee IDs approved by the State Board of Elections. A voter who can't show an ID may still be able to vote by completing an ID Exception Form.



The youngest member of our usher team is Lluvia Martinez (age 4. Parents are Jason Martinez & Ciana Lopez.



🦃 If you're interested in helping with our third annual Turkey Drop for our St Luke's Clergy Discretionary Fund families, watch for details early in November. 🦃



...even when God is silent

Some of you know that I participate in St. Luke's Tuesday morning Centering Prayer. Greg usually leads these sessions, and he is a gracious and patient facilitator. He is also gracious to let me lead Centering Prayer on occasion. Doing so gives me a different perspective on an apophatic style prayer like this. Instead of being a mere participant, my opening and closing words mold the silent and still journey each individual experiences as they open to God's presence. I sense a deepening connection with them even as we sit in silence for 20 minutes, and it is impossible not to feel at least some responsibility for them. Indeed, participants have truly bonded over these weekly meetings.

I took to Centering Prayer with ease for the most part. I spend a lot of time in different forms of contemplation, so the idea of doing nothing external while doing something internal was not new to me. But like most of us at St. Luke's, I was brought up on texted prayer. Words, images, and concrete thoughts are typical with kataphatic prayer and guide me from "Eternal God" to "Amen." My nearly one-year experience with Morning Prayer at St. Luke's (Fall of 2024 into Spring of 2025) brought this home for me, especially when I exercised lay leadership and led some of these services. Over time, I realized that the two, kataphatic and apophatic, are not mutually exclusive but complementary times with God, whether alone or with others, seeking connection with divine presence.

Morning Prayer II is said Thursday mornings at 9 a.m. at St. Luke's. We are in our third month, and we invite you to consider being a part of this simple but special service. All of the text is provided, easily accessible, and largely participatory. While there is some repetition with canticles, collects, and responses for formative purposes, the daily readings – texts not often heard at Eucharist – and especially the designated readings on a day when we commemorate the lives of holy women and men lend a freshness and even an "oh, wow" moment or two.

Though God may seem silent to us, God's presence is very much alive at both prayer services. We hope to see you at one or both of them.

David

"Whispering God, who longs for us to hear your voice, and waits in the sheer silence for us to recognize your presence, meet me in this quiet moment. Silent my loud, tumultuous thoughts, and grant my brain rest. Help me let go of my distractions, and my desire to be distracted, to simply sit here with you. And, as the silence unsettles my spirit, let the waves of your peace and presence wash over me. Amen.

Reclaim Today

The Green Team's Report

Thoughts for the Month

"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth... so is my word that goes out from my mouth". ***Isaiah 55: 10-11***

"We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them"
Albert Einstein

November Green Tips

Jeannine Sielinski, of the Eastside Audubon Society, has several eco-friendly fall tips for leaves, twigs, pumpkins, and wood chips.

Nutrient-Rich Mulch: As leaves and twigs break down, they enrich the soil, preparing it for a healthier spring.

Wildlife Shelter: These natural materials provide shelter for bugs and critters, supporting biodiversity in your yard.

Compost Your Pumpkins! Break down your old pumpkins (remove any candles or paint) and compost them. Birds and critters will love the treat, but keep an eye out for unwanted guests like rats.

Add Wood Chips to Your Yard: Wood chips help retain moisture in the soil, which is crucial during dry spells. They also act as a natural barrier against weeds, as well as mitigating soil erosion and helping to keep your garden intact.

You can get free wood chips from local tree removal services or arborists. There are also websites where you can request wood chips, but be prepared to accept a large load whenever it's available.

Upcoming Green Event

Root Fest
Saturday, November 7, 2026
9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Carrboro Farmers Market
301 W. Main St.
Carrboro, NC 27510
Free

Join in celebrating humble root vegetables in honor of the start of the winter market season. The first Saturday of the market's winter hours (9am-12pm) is the perfect time to celebrate root vegetables perfect for all of your upcoming Thanksgiving and holiday dishes. Shoppers will be able to enjoy vendor specials that feature root vegetables, an educational display about sweet potatoes (North Carolina's state vegetable!), samples of recipes that feature root vegetables to inspire your shopping, a raffle with root trivia, and much more.

St. Luke's Solar Savings

St. Luke's solar savings for September 2026 were $761.63. For 2026, savings so far were $ 6,784.60. Since installation, total savings were $ 38,470.07.

Two Opportunities for Pilgrimage: Near and Far

Pilgrimage is an ancient spiritual practice that invites us to step outside our familiar surroundings, encounter different expressions of faith, and discover something new about God, ourselves, and one another. This year, St. Luke's has two wonderful opportunities to do just that—one close to home and another across the world.

A Local Pilgrimage to St. Barbara's Orthodox Church
Saturday, November 14 | 10:00 a.m.–Noon

We have been invited by Fr. Stavroforos to visit St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in Durham for a guided tour of its beautiful Byzantine-style church. We'll explore the rich history, theology, iconography, and worship traditions of Eastern Orthodoxy, one of Christianity's oldest expressions.

This is a wonderful opportunity to encounter a tradition that shares our Christian roots while offering different perspectives on spirituality, worship, and the mystery of God. Following the tour, those interested are invited to enjoy lunch together at a nearby Greek restaurant.

St. Barbara's is located at 8306 NC Highway 751 in Durham.

Walking in the Footsteps of Paul: Greece 2027
March 2–10, 2027

Next spring, a team from St. Lukes will head out on an extraordinary pilgrimage through Greece, exploring the ancient world of the Apostle Paul and the beginnings of Christianity.

Our journey will take us to Thessaloniki, Meteora, Delphi, Corinth, and Athens. Along the way, we'll encounter remarkable historical sites, explore the cultural and religious world in which Christianity emerged, and reflect on how Paul's message continues to shape our understanding of faith today.

The pilgrimage includes licensed guides, accommodations in three- and four-star hotels, and breakfasts and dinners. Early-bird pricing begins at $3,099 per person based on double occupancy, excluding airfare.

This will be more than a sightseeing trip. It will be an opportunity for learning, reflection, spiritual growth, and deepening relationships with fellow pilgrims.

Come Along on the Journey!

Whether you can travel across town or across the Atlantic, both pilgrimages offer an opportunity to broaden our understanding of Christianity and experience the richness of our shared spiritual heritage.

I hope you'll consider joining us for one or both of these experiences. Sometimes stepping outside what is familiar opens us to new ways of seeing the sacred—and reminds us that faith is not simply something we believe, but a journey we share.

Greg Farrand
Rector



thank you

Dear St. Luke's family and friends,

Words are not adequate to express how deeply grateful I am for all the love and support you have given me during the weeks since Donald's unexpected leukemia diagnosis and sudden passing. Thank you for your hugs, food, and acts of kindness that have comforted and sustained me during this difficult time. Thank you for the beautiful reception, food, and flowers following Donald's funeral. It was overwhelming.

When we joined St. Luke's shortly after we were married many years ago, Donald experienced a sense of love, belonging, and acceptance he had never felt, having never been part of a church family.

St. Luke's was one of the most important things in our lives together, and it will remain so in mine without him.

With deepest gratitude,
Brenda Hamm

November

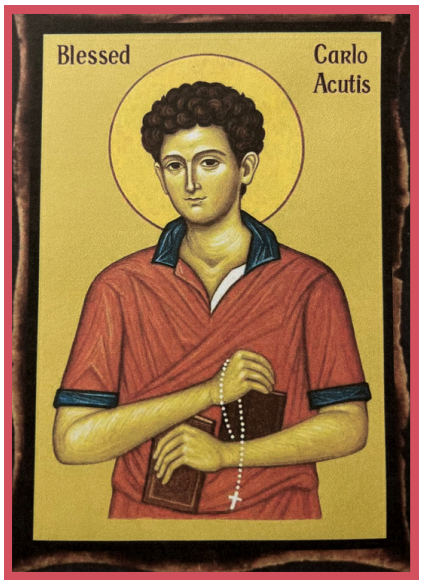
Birthdays

1 John Hodges-Copple
3 Bobbie Hendrix
3 Tom Barber
10 Marlys Ray
10 Peter Taflan
12 Lera Williams
12 Ted Triebel
13 Kenny Duke
16 Wilbur Longmire
22 Jeanne Alton
24 LaRue Dedrick
26 John Cline



November Wedding Anniversaries

Linda & Billy Dameron	11/4
Anne & Alan Burgess	11/27
Valleri & Bill Callahan	11/28





Icon Corner

by
Mimi Games

November 1 was set aside to honor those who never received a day of their own. Saints are still being recognized today, and each one is different. Some are known only to those closest to them. Others have mystical experiences, or are busy at work in the world, and some struggle with social skills. Butler's Lives of the Saints observes that "many saints have no idea that they are saints. One saint will discover the value of tradition, while another saint will open new doors of innovation… They fulfill their lives the way different creatures fulfill God's plan."

In Massaschusetts At St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Nantucket, an icon of Mr. Rogers hangs on the wall beside the pew where he usually worshipped. Fred Rogers was a bullied, asthmatic child who went on to study music seriously and become an ordained Presbyterian minister. His children's program, Mister Rogers' Neighborhood, touched countless lives, and he is remembered for saying, "I like you just the way you are."

Carlo Acutis was the child of wealthy Italian parents who worked internationally. His parents were secular, but Carlo was cared for by religious nannies. He taught himself computer programming and helped his parish and school with digital projects. From an early age he was drawn to prayer, Eucharistic miracles, and apparitions of Mary, and he explored religious questions with curiosity. His parish priest described him as transparent. Carlo died of leukemia in 2006 at the age of 15. The Catholic Church canonized him in 2025, and he has been called the "patron saint of the Internet" and "God's Influencer."

As Episcopal hymn #293 reminds us, "The saints of God are just folk like me, and I mean to be one too."







St. Luke's Share Your Christmas

Giving Season Starts November 22

The Share Your Christmas tree will be up in the Sprague Room beginning Sunday, November 22!

Help brighten Christmas for Friends of St. Luke's, LEAP Students, Ronald McDonald House, and the Durham Animal Protection Society. Just take a tag from the tree and purchase a gift. If you prefer, you can donate funds to St. Luke's that will be used to purchase gifts or gift cards.

If you know of individuals or families who could benefit from our Share Your Christmas effort, please contact Almoner Jan Sweet Freeman (jansweetchpa@gmail.com; 252-203-1742).

To help with purchasing gifts or gift cards with funds donated by St. Lukers who prefer not to shop, or to help with wrapping, organizing or delivery, contact Bill or Carol Charping (phone: 919-214-0560; email: bizzocharping@earthlink.net).

Look for more details in the weekly bulletins later in November!

Christmas Poinsettias and Greenery

If you would like to donate towards the poinsettias and greenery that will adorn our church at Christmas, you may do so through the Church Center app, or by check. In Church Center, donating is secure and simple: open the app, find the drop-down menu on the right and click "Give." This will take you to the donation screen. Use the drop-down menu to find "Flower Fund (Poinsettias and Easter Lilies)," click on it, enter an amount of your choice, click "continue to Give." This will take you to a screen where you will choose (or set up) a payment method. Then click "Give (amount)" at the bottom of the screen and that's it! Please call or email the parish office by no later than December 18 to let us know the person(s) in whose memory or honor your donation is given. Your name(s) and the name(s) of those being remembered or honored will be printed in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

Celebrating 70 Years





Thanking Treasurer Jim Brunquell for his service



What a great clean up crew!



Good food and great people made for a lively meal!



These Parisioners have been faithful members for at least 50 years!

Dot Borden
Steve & LaRue Dedrick
Peggy DePasquale
Julie Hege
Kay Gresham
Randy Griffin
Bill and Grams Gutknecht
Dick Hutson
Connie Johnson
Marie Levchak
Tom McIntosh
Bonnie Moore
June Santa
Paul and Karen Stirrup
Ken and Sara Taylor
Anne Thornton
Bill and Kay Yarger

News from the Gray Building!



Getting Ready for Winter:
As the weather gets colder, we are getting ready for winter at LEAP! The days may be chilly, but our classrooms are still full of play, exploration, and happy moments. We are making the most of every day as we welcome the changing season!



Jingle Bell LEAP 5K Is Coming!
Winter also means that our favorite holiday tradition is just around the corner! The Jingle Bell LEAP 5K is coming on December 12. We cannot wait to celebrate with our community once again! Check out the flyer below for more information, and we hope to see you there!



Kermés at LEAP!
We had such a wonderful time at our annual Kermés! Families came together to enjoy an afternoon of fun, food, and community on the church grounds. Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make this event possible! We are grateful for your support, which also helped us raise funds for our preschool.



A Report from Deacon Monnie.

Nuevo Amanecer (which means “New Dawn”) occurs biennially (every two years) as a national gathering and conference to celebrate, equip, and connect Latino Episcopalians. It is hosted by The Episcopal Church’s Latino/Hispanic Ministries , usually at Kanuga Conference Center in Hendersonville, NC. It was from September 28 to October 1, 2026. Although it is a regular event, this was the first year I had the opportunity to go. What an incredible experience! I’d guess there were some 200 people there, including the Medina’s!

We at St. Luke’s are proud of our partnership with Iglesia Episcopal El Buen Pastor, and want to enrich that partnership. We need to learn more! We sent 3 people, EBP sent 3 and Holy Innocents in Henderson, sent 4 for a total of 10. Nine of us (all women) embarked from St. Luke’s in a 15 passenger van which I drove (!). The one man in the group decided to drive separately!!

Upon arrival we were greeted by the Medina’s for pictures and check-in. Our first event, after dinner together, was worship in the Chapel with Holy Communion, an inspiring and upbeat sermon from our own Bp. Anne Hodges-Copple and great music. The next day began a series of workshops that would extend over the next two days, on leadership training and resource-sharing.

Speakers included the President of the House of Deputies, Julia Ayala, who was the keynote speaker. Frustrated by how the Church we love is complicated, she broke it down into simple to understand terms. Other speakers included The tenth Bishop of Minnesota, Bishop Craig Love, who let led the Epsicopal response to ICE atrocities in Minneapolis and, The Venerable Miguel Bustos, Manager of Racial Justice and Reconcilation from the National Church. Additional speakers addressed leadership development; the transformation that Latino ministry brings to a church; growing in our vocations; and radical hospitality: immigration advocacy and knowing your rights. There was plenty of time for networking through shared meals and a festive closing event.

It was different to be in the minority, especially in terms of language, but everyone embraced the other and left thoroughly enriched in our faith and commitment to each other and Latino ministries.

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Vestry Reflections

Our October Vestry meeting on October 26, 2026 was a busy one! I've captured a few of the highlights below:

Jim Brunnquell joined us via Zoom and presented his final financial report to the Vestry. St. Luke's is in a strong financial position for the last quarter of 2026. All the signers on our financial accounts have been updated to reflect Jim's departure and our annual contract with BeMissional has been approved. Wayne Wagoner has graciously agreed to serve as our new Treasurer.

Jr. Warden, Steve Dedrick, reported that roof leaks have been identified in the Gray Building. An estimate was shared and the Vestry approved the funds for repair. An earlier leak in the Nave has been repaired.

Sr. Warden, Hope Galunas, gave an update on a very successful Pumpkin Patch with a shout out to Wendy Cook for her expertise in tracking the credit card and Venmo sales.

Deacon Monnie and Bob Buchanan talked about some of the memorable moments from the Nuevo Amanecer conference they attended. The conference was hosted by the The Episcopal Church's Latino/Hispanic Ministries.

Let there be light! Thanks to the generosity of donors and support from the Memorials committee, St. Luke's will be purchasing exterior lighting for the campus.

Bob Buchanan and Peter Taflan presented a mock-up of the official Episcopal Church Pride shield. The new sign will replace the old "All are Welcome" sign which is showing some wear. The expense will be covered by the Pride and Diversity Committee.

~ Debbie Stonehouse



Pre-owned Christmas Decoration Sale

Don't miss the Pre-owned Christmas Decoration Sale in Johnson Hall, Saturday, November 7, 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. This will be a great time to donate all those Christmas decorations you haven't used in a long time. Check those attics, garages, and closets for treasures others may enjoy this season. Any holiday item will be welcome. Donations accepted Sunday, November 1, through Thursday, November 5, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. We need many volunteers for pricing, organizing, and helping with displays. Any time and any number of hours would be appreciated! Please come help set up for this BIG sale on Sunday, November 1, after the 10:30 church service. Hot coffee, hot cider, and sodas will be available all week. See Beth Bonner for any questions.

Are you using Church Center yet?



St. Luke's has its own unique setup link for the Church Center app. When you scan this QR code on a mobile device, you'll see links to download the app. Or you can use this link if you are using a browser: St. Luke's Church Center setup. Once the app installs, it will have St. Luke's pre-selected — no extra steps required! If you prefer to use a browser, find the link in the Friday ENews. For the next several weeks, we hope to have someone available after each Sunday service to offer any needed assistance downloading or getting started with the Church Center app, where you can edit your profile, see your giving history, sign up for an event, view the parish calendar, make a donation or pledge payment, and more!

Upcoming Vestry Elections: A Word of Gratitude

As we approach our annual vestry election, I want to express my deep gratitude to those who have offered themselves as nominees to serve St. Luke's in this important ministry. Serving on the vestry is a meaningful commitment of time, energy, and prayerful discernment. I am grateful for their willingness to share their gifts and help guide our parish into the future. Our vestry nominees are Beth Bonner, Anne Burgess, Craig Galunas, Christopher Gould, Kay Gresham, and Annette Medlin.

Our vestry plays a vital role in the life of St. Luke's. Beyond the practical responsibilities of overseeing our resources, buildings, and finances, vestry members help us discern how we can faithfully live into our calling as a community rooted in the love of Christ. Their leadership helps create the conditions for our ministries to flourish, our community to grow, and our shared vision to take shape.

One of the things I appreciate most about St. Luke's is the generosity of spirit that so many of you bring to our common life. Our nominees reflect that spirit, and I am grateful for each of them. Regardless of the outcome of the election, their willingness to serve is itself a gift to our parish.

Our vestry election will take place on Sunday, November 8, following both the 8:00 and 10:30 a.m. services. At each meeting, ballots will be distributed and members will have the opportunity to vote. All members of St. Luke's, who are in good standing, are eligible to participate.

If you are unable to attend on November 8, absentee ballots will be available beginning Friday, October 30. Completed absentee ballots must be returned to our parish coordinator, Kaye Saunders, by 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 5.

I encourage everyone to participate in this important part of our shared life. Vestry service is not about individual agendas or personal preferences, but about listening together, discerning faithfully, and working collaboratively for the good of the whole community.

Thank you to our nominees, to those currently serving on the vestry, and to all of you who contribute in so many ways to the life and ministry of St. Luke's. I am grateful for what we are building together and excited about the possibilities that lie ahead.

Greg Farrand
Rector

Vestry Election Schedule:

Sunday, November 8: Vestry election takes place. Following each service, we will hold a brief meeting, distribute ballots, and vote. All members of St. Luke's who are in good standing are eligible to participate.

If you are unable to attend worship on November 8, absentee ballots will be available beginning Friday, October 30. Completed absentee ballots must be returned to our parish coordinator Kaye Saunders by 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, November 5.



Beth Bonner

Activities of m y early life in the small town of Aurora NC revolved around school and Holy Cross Episcopal Church. My siblings and I were encouraged (more like expected) to attend Sunday School every Sunday and church at least twice a month. It was a small church and there were limited youth group undertakings, but I joined in whatever was available. I took piano lessons from my Aunt Sal who was our church organist and once in a while she would let me play a few hymns during church. My joy was not playing the organ but seeing the ear to ear grin on my mother's face.

I started attending St. Luke's in 1981 and joined shortly after. From the very first visit I felt right at home, everyone was so friendly and welcoming just like it for newcomers today. As far as my St. Luke's Church experience I have served on three previous vestries and over the years worked on a number of committees: Ladies Lunch Bunch, Pastoral Care. Coffee Hour, Duke Center Dinners, Reception and Cover Meals, Pancake Supper, Spring Fling sale, Preowned Christmas Decoration Sale, Altar Guild, Ordinations Receptions, Faith Team, Usher and Pumpkin Patch.

I would be honored to serve on the Vestry for the next three years.



Anne Burgess

I was honored and overjoyed to be asked to run for the St. Luke's Vestry. St. Luke's has meant a lot to my family and me since joining over 30 years ago. The church reminds me of my grandparents' home - warm, welcoming, and wonderful food. Over the years, I have been involved with several ministries: Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Youth Group, Outreach Grants Committee, Spring Fling, and Green Team. I also enjoy cooking dishes for our various events.

In my professional life, since graduating from college, I have managed health information departments. I took a small detour for about five years as Program Director for the Health Information Technology Program at DeVry University. For the last two years at DeVry, I was Faculty Dean. I retired at the end of 2022 from Carol Woods Retirement Community and have since done some contract work for them. Organizations I am currently involved with are the Junior League of Durham and Orange Counties, Aging Well Durham, and I assist with some of the fundraisers for Urban Ministries of Durham.

I like the environment and current direction I see for St. Luke's. The Ministries Fair in September was a visual reminder of just how much is happening here. I believe my professional background, coupled with my history with St. Luke's, will be a good fit for the Vestry at St. Luke's. As honored and overjoyed as I was to be asked to run for the Vestry, I would feel the same if elected. Put me in, Coach!



Craig Galunas

My wife Hope and I became members of St. Luke's in the mid-80's. She is a cradle Episcopalian and I am a converted Catholic. We raised both our boys here and have made many life long friends here. I have served in various ways throughout the years including as a vestry member, EMC co-chair, pumpkin tosser and my most cherished ministry, member of our church choir.

Professionally, I have done many things. Directly out of high school I entered the US Navy where I served four years as a sonar technician. Upon discharge I moved to Durham in 1980. My parents had relocated here in 1977 from Rhinecliff, NY where I grew up. I spent a semester at UNC, the highlight being meeting my wife of 44 years. Then for the next 20 years I worked in the business world until I finally was able to enter the profession I had always dreamed of. In 2005 I graduated, at the age of 47, from Watts School of Nursing as a registered nurse. I have spent the last twenty years doing something I loved in various capacities. Cardiac care, Emergency Services, and for the last ten years, Hematological Oncology thanks to my dear St. Luke's friend, Martha Lassiter who convinced me that I would love it. Needless to say she was right! I retired from Duke in October 2025.

While to me St. Luke's has always been special, what is happening now is so exciting, I believe my diverse background will make me an effective addition to the Vestry. It's such a vibrant time in the life of St. Luke's and I'd like to offer my time and talents to my St. Luke's family.



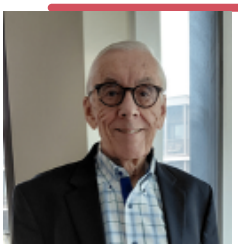
Kay Gresham

I grew up in a fundamental Advent Christian Church where church was central to every part of my life. Leaving home, I attended a Presbyterian church until marrying Wade, and moving to Durham. When Wade introduced me to St. Luke's fifty years ago, I felt a whole new sense of belonging and serving God. Wade passed away last year. The members at St. Luke's have proven to be an even bigger part of my life since then. During these 50 years, I have served on the vestry, taught Sunday school, been a Sunday money counter, co-chaired Every Member Canvass, been a part of a Capital Campaign, currently serving on Altar Guild (30 years?) and doing whatever and whenever asked to help with.

Over the years, St. Luke's has had many Priests, Rectors and Deacons. We are now in a stable place. This is a time at St Luke's when we need to savor the changes, face any challenges, rejoice in the successes and plan for the wonderful future before us. I would be honored to help lead these and other changes by serving on the vestry. I believe we need to listen intently with open hearts, act fairly to all concerned and move forward in the best interest of the parishioners and growth of the Church. We will have new challenges and face them together as always.

Professionally I was in banking for eighteen years then worked as a financial consultant with Morgan Stanley for thirty-seven years, having retired in 2018. I served on boards with the Durham Changer of Commerce, Durham Technical Community College, Durham Arts Council, United Way, Durham Rotary Club and many others. Dedicating time and resources to the community has always been important to me.

I live in Croasdaile Village with my dog Barker and cat Pixie. My stepdaughter, Laura, and her husband, Larry, live in Raleigh, close enough for us to visit almost every week. My immediate family is in the Hickory area where I visit often to love and enjoy them as we are very close.



Christopher Gould

When Kathleen and I moved here last fall, we were unsure about whether we could find a parish that we loved as much as the St. Jameses of Hendersonville and Wilmington. It took only one Sunday service at St. Luke's for us to recognize that we had found our new spiritual home. The welcome we received from Greg, Monnie, and congregants who went out of their way to introduce themselves was extraordinary. We were also struck by the courageous efforts of parishioners to protect their neighbors in the face of ICE enforcement, which was then underway in Durham. It became clear to us that St. Luke's is a parish that exercises its Christian values in concrete ways that benefit people in need. Compounding all this are stimulating sermons and the contributions of so many talented musicians.

Since then, we have come to appreciate Greg's and Monnie's recognition of our aptitudes and interests and their readiness to involve us in ways that engage them. In particular, we have enjoyed facilitating discussions of short stories in adult formation, and I now look forward to my first eucharistic visit on October 18.

Professionally, Kathleen and I were faculty members at UNC Wilmington for thirty years. In addition to teaching courses in British and American literature, along with my share of first-year English classes, I coordinated the composition program for four years, chaired the English Department for eight years, and directed the Center for Faculty Leadership for three years. I also co-directed the Cape Fear Writing Project, a summer institute that awarded fellowships to public school teachers in southeastern North Carolina, and I edited the professional journal of the North Carolina English Teachers Association. I am very honored to be considered for membership in the vestry.



Annette Medlin

I have attended St. Luke's full time for the past year and a half. I am a lay reader, have been a member of the choir, and have sung with Arts at St. Luke's. I serve on the Altar Guild, coordinate the Labyrinth Ministry, and recently joined the Handbell Choir and the Worship team as a crucifer/acolyte. This year I also served as point person for the Ministries Fair. You may have seen my daughter, Rachel, a cellist who plays regularly at St. Luke's. I love hearing her play in our lovely church!

Professionally, I am a fundraising consultant with Convergent Nonprofit Solutions, a national firm providing strategic fundraising services to nonprofit organizations. My work focuses on feasibility studies, capital campaign management, and strategic planning and initiatives with economic development organizations.

I grew up in church in a very small town in Missouri. My parents were very involved, and my five sisters and I were raised on the importance of actively participating in community and caring for others. When I go home, I get stopped in the store for hugs, or someone spots me in a restaurant and quietly pays for my meal. We know everyone, and they know us. That deep sense of belonging is hard to replace. I have been a bit of a rolling stone living in many places since leaving home, but I have landed in Durham, and it is now my forever home!

Getting to know a new place takes time, and finding St. Luke's was key to my settling in. This parish embodies the community and belonging that matter so much to me. Among its many gifts are hospitality, care, a sense of urgency when there is need, and genuine warmth and love for all. It's a place where diversity is celebrated, curiosity is encouraged, and faith is evident. I am grateful to have found such a family to belong to, and I am honored by the invitation to serve in this capacity.

ARTS at ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Upcoming in our. 2026-27 season!

Sunday, March 7
David Arcus Organ Recital

St. Luke's Music Director and renowned organist David Arcus presents a fine program showcasing the expressive range of the church's 3-manual pipe organ.

Sunday, April 11
An Afternoon with Jay Sidebotham

Beloved artist and author Jay Sidebotham offers a reflective and engaging program blending art, humor, and spiritual insight.

Sunday, May 16
Elizabeth June in Concert

Singer, writer, and actor Elizabeth June closes the season with an intimate concert of music rooted in hope, authenticity, and fun.

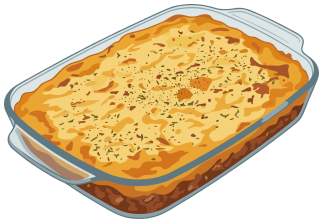
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All events are at 4 p.m.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
stlukesdurham.org · 1737 Hillandale Rd
919 286 2273 • Durham NC 27705



Caring Ministries



St. Joseph's Breakfast Ministry

On July 12, we launched our casserole ministry for St. Joseph's breakfasts for its unhoused neighbors. Steve Engelke gave out all 25 pans; and on July 19, they were returned and delivered to St. Joseph's. A BIG "thank you" to all who baked and to the Engelke's for transporting them to St. Joseph's and their freezers. St. Joseph's feeds breakfast Monday-Friday to an average of 80 people each day. This is a St. Luke's monthly event happening on the SECOND Sunday of each month! Be looking for your favorite breakfast casserole recipes!

Soup Ministry

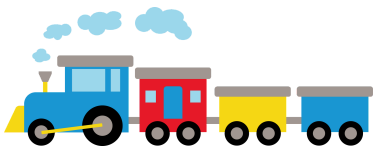
We have returned to a former St. Luke's practice of keeping soup and bread in the freezer. It's simple to do but has a huge return on that investment. Next time you make soup, make a little extra and put it in the box in the freezer in Johnson Hall's kitchen together with some bread. It will feed people's souls: those who may be feeling sad; those who feel helpless; or those who are just plain worn out. Containers are in the Sprague Room. Label the top with a magic marker indicating what kind it is, if it is vegetarian or vegan, and the date. Then, place it in the freezer. There is also a basket in the Sprague room to return the washed container so it can be used again.

If you have questions, please reach out to Valleri Callahan at vcallahan51@gmail.com.

Meal Train

Pastoral Care takes many different forms. One is to be able to offer meals when our folks are in need of food to help them bridge a difficult or stressful time. It could be the return from a hospital visit, upon learning some difficult news, upon the birth of a new family member, and the like.

Please prayerfully consider volunteering by signing up on the list in the Sprague Room. This list will turn into the email list that Ann Riley will use when we need to reach out for help for meals. Please contact Ann Riley (anntoddriley@gmail.com) with questions.



Newcomers

If you are a newcomer, welcome! We have coffee hour with refreshments in the Sprague Room after each service. Please join us to say hello! Stop by the Newcomers table (also in the Sprague Room) where you can learn more about St. Luke's, request a nametag, fill out a visitors' card, and maybe make a new friend.

St. Luke's Calendar

Our parish calendar is up to date on Church Center and on our website at stlukesdurham.org. Weddings, baptisms, funerals, and other special services are scheduled by the clergy. The Parish Coordinator, Kaye Saunders, can help you arrange meetings or other events. Contact her at parish-coord@stlukesdurham.org, or call the church office at 919-286-2273.

Online Church Directory

St. Luke's parish directory is now exclusively online. To view and update your contact information or photo, or look up contact information for other parishioners, you must activate your account using the email address you placed on file with the parish office. If you are unsure what email you used, or need instructions for activating your account, please contact directory@stlukesdurham.org

Submission of materials for the newsletter:

The deadline for submitting materials for the newsletter is the 20th of each month.
Please email your materials to Babs Wise: babswise@gmail.com.

For Children

Our Nursery is open in Johnson Hall Sunday mornings 9-11:30 for infants through three year olds. Older children are invited to join Children's Chapel beginning at 10:30 also in Johnson Hall. Please ask an usher if you need directions or assistance.

Ways to Give to St. Luke's

- Check (drop it in the plate or mail to our Parish Coordinator)
- through Church Center using a credit card, debit card or debit from your bank account, choosing from the dropdown menu the fund to which you wish to donate
- Push payments from your bank or credit union to the Church, just like bill-pay payments for your regular bills
- Initiate a Qualified Charitable Distribution from your IRA if you are 70 1/2 or older

In the Episcopal Church, we ask our members to make a pledge, which is an estimate of giving in the coming year. It represents your commitment to God's work in this place. To make a pledge, please email our Parish Coordinator, Kaye Saunders at parish-coord@stlukesdurham.org.

Flowers for Worship

If you would like to donate flowers for a Sunday service in memory or honor of a loved one, please sign up on the flowers calendar on the wall outside the parish office. A special bouquet will be provided for the Sunday service on the date you choose. The cost is $100. Pay through Church Center on the "Give" page choosing "Flower Donations for Sunday Services" from the dropdown menu, or pay by check to St. Luke's noting "Sunday flowers" on the memo.

St. Luke's Parish Office Hours:

Monday-Thursday 9-3
(Closed Tuesdays 10-11:15}

Rector Office Hours:

Monday-Wednesday 9-5
Thursdays available by phone.
Other times by appointment.

Contact us: St. Luke's Episcopal Church
1737 Hillandale Road Durham, NC 27705 phone 919-286-2273
www.stlukesdurham.org

The Rev. Gregory Farrand, Rector
The Rev. Monnie Riggin, Deacon
Kaye Saunders, Parish Coordinator & Assoc. Director of Music
David Arcus, Director of Music & Organist
The Rev. Chris Redmon, Deacon in Residence
Chris Reed, Intern

Treasurer: Wayne Wagoner

Vestry Clerk: Jim Wise

Vestry

Class of 2026
Bob Buchanan
Wendy Cook,
Hope Galunas, Senior Warden
Pike Hege

Class of 2027
Carlton Brown
Kelley Lawton
Debbie Stonehouse
Peter Taflan

Class of 2028
Steve Dedrick, Junior Warden
Daniel Emory
Brian Gullett
Martha Lassiter

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
1737 Hillandale Road
Durham, NC 27705
Address Service Requested
The art of living your faith