May 1, 2023 | Monthly Issue #23





St. Luke Church embodies a strong sense of mission to youth, young families, seniors, the homeless, and others in need of God's grace regardless of color, ethnicity, gender, and orientation through our open and affirming faith.

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear St. Luke Family,

What a glorious spring we are having! As someone who hasn't experienced much in the way of changing seasons for the last 30 years, seeing winter birth into the new life of spring is so refreshing. What a wonderful reminder of God's faithfulness and how God brings new life to us in more ways than we can ever imagine. If a tiny seed can become a massive tree, just imagine what Jesus can do in our lives if we invite him in to grow our lives of faith!

As the school year draws to a close, and we ready ourselves for vacations and summer fun, let us remember to take time to nurture our faith in new ways. In this beautiful time of year, I encourage you to take time each day to sit outside (if you are able) and read your bible. If you can't sit outside, sit near a window so that you can see the beauty of God's glorious creation that surrounds you. Take a walk or car ride and pray for the world around you as you see it. Download a free bible app such as YouVersion and engage with one of the thousands of devotions they offer. Jesus wants to meet you in this season.

May is a very busy month for the St. Luke family. We will begin with Grubby Sunday, May 7th. Wear your grubby clothes to church and plan to stay for lunch and a great time of spring cleaning and sprucing up the church and property. May 14th is Music Sunday where the choir will lead worship in music and song. On May 21st in the morning is Youth Leadership Sunday led by our fabulous middle and high school youth,

and at 2 p.m. is the installation service for me to "officially" become the next installed pastor of St. Luke through the auspices of Chicago Presbytery.

Please put each of these important dates on your calendar, and together let's celebrate all of the incredible blessings Jesus brings to our lives.

Blessings and Peace,

Pastor Holly



# Service of Installation of the Rev. Holly J. Hoppe

The Presbytery of Chicago is pleased to invite you to a special service for the purpose of installing the Rev. Holly J. Hoppe as pastor of St. Luke Church.

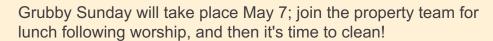
This festive occasion will take place at 2 p.m. Sunday, May 21. As an official function of the presbytery, the service will include a number of pastors and elders from around Chicago, and is an event not to be

missed!

Bring your family, friends, and neighbors to celebrate God's working at St. Luke!

## Help spring clean our building!

The property team is once again inviting all members and friends of St. Luke to come to church in your grubby clothes and help to spruce up our building.







# Christian Education/Youth Group News

Join us May 21 at 10 a.m. for **YOUTH SUNDAY!** Our students are excited to lead worship and give a message on community service. They'll share how they have served the community of St. Luke and beyond and why they enjoy it. Please come to show your support of

our young people!

**Youth Group** will be meeting briefly after worship on Sunday, May 7, to finalize the service.

**Confirmation** has begun! One of our confirmands is still considering who he is choosing for a sponsor, so please be open and prayerfully consider this opportunity if approached.

*Club Luke* is wrapping up for the year this month. May 4 and 18 are our last scheduled Club Luke sessions. Please join us at 4:15 via Zoom to end the year.

Questions? Contact Ali Mulvoy, Director of Children and Youth Ministries, at <a href="mailto:amulvoy@stlukedg.org">amulvoy@stlukedg.org</a>

#### Celebrate music on May 14

The Chancel Choir is delighted to present **Music Sunday** on May 12 at the 10 a.m. service.

The choir will be singing three new anthems to celebrate the Easter season: "Sweet Are the Prayers of a Friend," "Jesus Calls Us," with a blues-inspired Gospel feel, and "All Things New."



Guest soprano Mary Elliott will be back to sing the solos in the first two new anthems, and guest flautist Chris Dortwegt will return to play a duet with pianist Anne Curin for the prelude, the flute obbligato for "Jesus Calls Us," and a new composition for flute and piano by our former organist Bonnie Johansen-Werner for the Offertory. This piece, called *Fantasia on "Nicaea,"* is a free flowing fantasy on the 19th-century popular hymn tune "Holy, Holy, Holy." It has an unrestrained outpouring of runs, turns, and trills by the flute that evoke the feel of a rushing mountain river tumbling in enthusiastic celebration of the holiness of its creator.

Readings and poetry that reflect the songs and spirit of the day will be read by various lay readers. We hope you will invite your friends to attend this special and celebrative service of music.

Will Thomen, Director of Music

# Volunteers needed for May Grab and Go Meals

St. Luke Church joins with area churches to feed our homeless and food-insecure neighbors. Weekly dinners are offered at each participating church on their specified day. St. Luke provides Grab and Go meals on Saturdays from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to prepare meals, distribute meals, set up and clean up, and register guests.

- To assist in the kitchen or with food preparation use this form: <a href="https://bit.ly/3Y1d0Yd">https://bit.ly/3Y1d0Yd</a>
- For registration, serving meals, or cleanup, use this Volunteer Calendar: https://bit.ly/3XS2e6w
- Or use the sign up link on the St. Luke Church website: <u>https://www.stlukedg.org/missions</u> "Community Kitchen" page.

Contact Vida (<u>vidajue@gmail.com</u>) or Fred (<u>mission@stlukedg.org</u>) for additional information or with questions.

Thank you for your service.



# Book Group reads historical fiction

The St. Luke Book Group will be meeting Thursday, May 25, at 7 p.m. to discuss *The Great Passion* by James Runcie. This fascinating historical novel tells the story of Stefan, a young chorister in Leipzig's choir school--whose music director is J.S. Bach--and is witness to the creation of one of Bach's greatest compositions, the St. Matthew Passion.

Meetings are open to all. For more information, please contact Rick Roche at <u>ricklibrarian@yahoo.com</u> or 630-215-8616.





# Worship is in the Sanctuary every Sunday at 10 a.m.

An email with a link to the livestream, along with links to the Order of Worship, Scripture, and Announcements (every other week) will be sent out prior to Sunday. Videos of the service will be available on our YouTube channel following the service.



#### St. Luke Prayer List

Please continue to pray for all those on our prayer list. Click <u>here</u> to view our current Prayer List.

**Good News & Gratitudes** 

Exercise Group -- 8:30 a.m. [outside group] (every Monday)

Big Book Group -- 8 p.m. [outside group] (every Monday)

Wednesday, 5/3

Exercise Group -- 8:30 a.m. [outside group] (every Wednesday)

Bible Study -- 11:30 a.m. in the Gathering Space (every Wednesday) ALL Welcome!!

Worship team -- 6 p.m.

Chancel Choir -- 7:30 p.m. (every Wednesday)

Thursday, 5/4

The GALZ and Da Guys -- 9:30 a.m. (every Thursday)

Club Luke on Zoom -- 4:15 p.m. *(also 5/18)* 

Saturday, 5/6

Grab and Go Meals -- 2 p.m. preparation; 5:30 p.m. serving *(every Saturday)* 

Sunday, 5/7

Grubby Sunday -- 11:15 a.m.

Youth Group -- 11:15 a.m.

Scandinavian Dancers -- 5:30 p.m. [outside group] (also 5/21)

Monday, 5/8

P.E.O. -- 9:30 a.m. [outside



Do you have any news you would like to share? Please contact us at session@stlukedg.org with your good news or your thanks/gratitude for the St. Luke family. A photo is always welcome, too!

#### Calendar continued...

Thursday, 5/11

Deacons -- 7 p.m.

Sunday, 5/14

Stewardship team -- 8:45 a.m.

Music Sunday worship -- 10 a.m.

Property team -- 11:15 a.m.

Thursday, 5/18

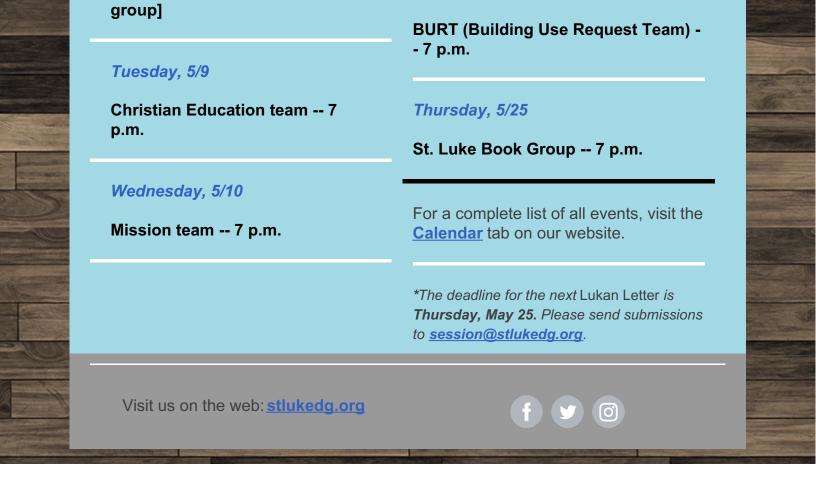
Session meeting -- 7 p.m.

Sunday, 5/21

Youth Sunday worship -- 10 a.m.

Installation of the Rev. Holly J. Hoppe -- 2 p.m.

Wednesday, 5/24



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