



ST. LUKE

CHURCH



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,

Thank you so much for the amazing welcome, love, and prayers you have given to Scott and me. It has truly been a joy getting to know each and every one of you. These last three weeks have gone by in a flash and I have enjoyed working with the members of the different Ministry Teams, learning how we live and learn into the call Jesus has placed upon His church called St. Luke. In the coming months, I look forward to connecting with you even more, laughing, playing, worshipping, visioning, and reaching out to our community and beyond. I have truly been able to feel "God with Us," throughout this entire journey, and look forward to what God has in store for us.

In closing, I believe the words of Hebrews 10:23-25 (*The Message* paraphrase) are a great motivator for the "new beginning" we are living into as a church. The writer of Hebrews says: *Let's keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. He always keeps his word. Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshiping together as some do but spurring each other on, especially as we see the big Day approaching.*

LET'S DO THIS! FOR TOGETHER WE ARE BETTER!

In hope, in prayer, in love,
Pastor Holly

Annual Meeting recap

The 2022 Annual Meeting was held Sunday, January 29 following worship. During the meeting, the congregation elected elders, deacons, and nominating committee members. Those elected to the office of elder were John Miller (Christian Education) and Stacey Cox (Personnel, 2nd term), and Julia Toth (youth elder). Those elected to the ministry of deacon were Pat Ciolek, Lisa Wallace-Keith, and Arlene Langley. Elected to represent the congregation on the nominating committee were Lisa Furstenau and Julie Baker. Thank you to all those who have agreed to serve, and thank you to the nominating committee for their hard work.

Also at the meeting, leaders of the various ministry teams gave brief updates. These included:

Christian Education (Rick Roche): 2022 was not an easy year for the Christian Education program at St. Luke. But we did hold our ground, continuing to offer programming for children and youth and adults, sometimes all together at multi-generational events. We experimented with curriculum and with times we offered programs. And we planned for 2023.

Now it is 2023 and time to act. We have a new pastor with abundant CE experience and insight, and a new and dedicated CE elder ready to shepherd our team. Our CE coordinator will soon have her office in the building again. We have an increasing number of children coming into our building weekly with scouts and other after school programs using our rooms--a growing opportunity for us to serve our community. In 2023, St. Luke needs to step up, so I invite you to join the CE team, volunteer to work on CE projects, and/or help with classes and events. Please say yes to CE in 2023.

Mission (Fred Moszur): 2022 Joys--Counting the number of meals that St Luke Church has provided at the former Community Kitchen, the PADS motel sites, and at the PADS Interim Housing Center--that number easily exceeds a thousand meals. And that is something we can be grateful for. In 2022, St. Luke Church helped refugees by donating furniture and welcome kits, and setting up apartments.

2023 Hopes--My hope is that St. Luke Church and neighbor churches will be the hands and feet of the body of Christ as we serve meals to our homeless and food-insecure neighbors. I hope that the World Relief organization and its connection and engagement to churches will continue to grow so that together we may offer refuge and hospitality to refugees rebuilding their lives in Chicagoland. My personal hope is that St. Luke Church might be in a place where we can participate in a World Relief program to regularly visit a refugee family and help them navigate a new culture, new language, and new customs.

Personnel (Stacey Cox): Stacey thanked the staff for their hard work over the past year, and asked the congregation to make a point of saying Hi and thanking them as well.

Worship (Kate Azo): Kate thanked everyone who helped decorate the sanctuary, especially Da Guys for hanging the stained glass and The Galz for their gift of greenery. She noted that in 2023 the team will be working to reinstate the ushers and

greeters, and asked for members to consider volunteering for these positions.

Membership (Julie Stewart): Julie noted that the past year was one of exploring what the membership means to St. Luke. In 2023 she expects the team to set objectives and determine what role they will play in the life of St. Luke. Julie was asked about the need for an updated directory, and Pastor Holly noted that she is familiar with the program that can create the directory, so that is a high priority for the team.

Property (Randy Winans): Randy summarized the accomplishments of the team in 2022 and noted that the elevator repairs would be completed in about a week, leaving us with an elevator that will be good for 20 years. The roof over the sanctuary will be replaced in 2023, and the team hopes to start replacing the old windows in the building (watch for information on how you can "purchase" a window!) as well as clean, repair, and paint the front of the building (facing Fairview).

Stewardship (Jim Collins): Jim is hoping to see an increase in electronic giving in 2023, and is setting up a QR code to include on the weekly bulletin to facilitate giving. He also noted that there will be a permanent recognition for those donating windows.

Deacons (Debbie Cebold): Debbie shared that the deacons have established teams to take communion to our homebound members. The deacons were grateful for the donations given at the cookie walk, which were used to purchase gift cards. She also noted that they would appreciate help with the weekly coffee hours.

The complete Annual Report can be found [here](#).

Stewardship update – it's per capita time!

Part of our responsibility as a congregation is to provide support for the Presbyterian denomination. The 2023 Presbytery assessment (per capita) is \$36.50 per member and covers expenses for:

- Presbytery of Chicago
- Synod of Lincoln Trails, and
- General Assembly

Per Capita is the major source of funding for the presbytery and the denomination and is requested of every congregation. It is based on the total active membership of the church and is shared equally among all members.

Next month, St. Luke will pay about \$5,800 per capita based on our active membership and the per member per capita of \$36.50. The Stewardship Team asks that if you are able, you contribute the per capita as soon as possible. As a reminder, per capita applies to each member of your family that is a member. For example, if there are three of you in your family and are all church members, the per capita for your family is \$111. **Please mark your check or payment with "per capita."**

Historically, about 40% of our members pay the per capita. Please prayerfully consider paying this important part of the funding for our denomination. It would be wonderful to have stronger participation in 2023 so that our budget is not significantly affected by St. Luke paying such a large part of this expense.

Please contact the Stewardship Team at stewardship@stlukedg.org if you have any

questions.



Christian Education Youth Group News

Confirmation will be beginning this month. This class is for 8th and 9th graders. If your student is in this age group, please let Ali know if your student will be attending. In addition, the confirmands will be prayerfully considering a sponsor. Please keep this in the back of your mind in case you are approached and asked to be a sponsor and prayerfully consider that opportunity as well.

Youth Group is scheduled for February 12 and 26 immediately following worship. As a reminder, we will be meeting at this new time and see if this is a workable time for families.

Club Luke is still on hold until a time/day and form of meeting has been decided.

Questions? Contact Ali Mulvoy, Director of Children and Youth Ministries, at amulvoy@stlakedg.org

Grab and Go Meals beginning February 18

St. Luke Church and a few other area churches will implement a new meal program to feed our homeless and food-insecure neighbors. Weekly dinners will be offered at each participating church on their specified day. This meal program begins mid-February, with St. Luke Church providing Grab and Go meals beginning Saturday, February 18, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

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

To learn more about how St. Luke will participate in this meals program, you are invited to attend a Zoom meeting on Thursday, February 2, at 7 p.m. with this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82307031100?pwd=RkY4anovV3FXWEtRM0hPWU9Uc2pVQT09>

or contact Vida (vidajue@gmail.com) or Fred (mission@stlakedg.org).

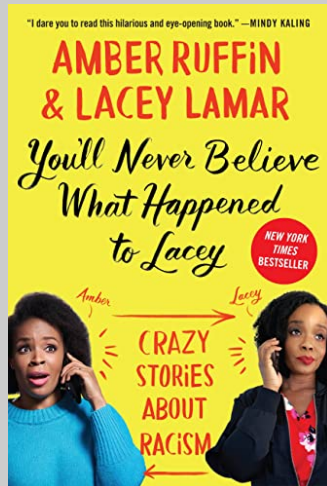
To indicate which dates you plan to help with registration, serving meals, or cleanup, use this Volunteer Calendar: <https://bit.ly/3XS2e6w>

To assist in the kitchen or with food preparation, use this form: <https://bit.ly/3Y1d0Yd>

Mission team serves dinners

In addition to making preparations for the Grab and Go Meals (see above), members of St. Luke prepared and served 150 meals at the PADS Interim Housing Center (IHC) on

Monday, January 30, our usual fifth Monday endeavor. Many, many thanks to the volunteers who helped prepare, transport, and serve the meal!



St. Luke Book Group selection focuses on issue of racism

The St. Luke Book Group will be meeting Thursday, February 23, at 7 p.m. to discuss ***You'll Never Believe What Happened to Lacey*** by Amber Ruffin. You may know Ruffin as a comedian and late-night TV show host. But she also grew up as Lacey's younger sister in Omaha, Nebraska. The two sisters have written a funny (yet serious) book that shares some of the most memorable instances of racism they've experienced in their lives.

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



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

Videos of the service will be posted to our YouTube channel, usually sometime on Monday. The Order of Worship, Scripture, and a link to the video will be sent via email when the video is available.

COMING SOON: Live streaming of the service!



St. Luke Prayer List

Please continue to pray for all those on our prayer list. Click [here](#) to view our current Prayer List.

Good News & Gratitudes

Wednesday, 2/1

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

Bible Study -- 11:30 a.m. in the Gathering Space and on Zoom
(**every Wednesday**)

Worship team -- 6 p.m.

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

Thursday, 2/2

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

Friday, 2/3

Whittier Variety Show rehearsal -
- 3:15 p.m. [outside group] (*every Friday*)

Sunday, 2/5

Scandinavian Dancers -- 5:30 p.m. [outside group]

Monday, 2/6

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

Reading Games practice -- 2 p.m. [outside group] (*every Monday*)

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

Knitting Group -- 8 p.m. (*every Monday*) via Zoom

Tuesday, 2/7

Whittier Variety Show practice -- 3 p.m. (*every Tuesday*)

Christian Education team -- 7 p.m.

Wednesday, 2/8

Mission team -- 7 p.m.

Thursday, 2/9

grateful
»...♥...«
Thankful
»...♥...«
blessed

During the Annual Meeting, members of the congregation shared what they were thankful for during 2022. Here are some of what was shared:

- Fred Moszur's music with the kids
 - Jim Collins' help with the youth
 - the beautiful gardens
 - the warm welcome to new attendees
 - Pastor Debbie's ministry
 - the PNC
 - the choir
-

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...

Monday, 2/13

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

Thursday, 2/16

Session meeting -- 7 p.m.

Saturday, 2/18

Grab-and-Go Meals -- 5:30 p.m.

Deacon meeting -- 7 p.m.

Tuesday, 2/21

Sunday, 2/12

Justice Agitators -- 7 p.m.

Stewardship team -- 8:45 a.m.

Wednesday, 2/22

Property team -- 11:15 a.m.

BURT (Building Use Request Team) -
- 7 p.m.

Youth Group -- 11:15 a.m. (*also
2/26*)

Thursday, 2/23

St. Luke Book Group -- 7 p.m.

For a complete list of all events, visit the
[Calendar](#) tab on our website.

**The deadline for the next Lukan Letter is
Saturday, Feb. 25. Please send submissions
to session@stlakedg.org.*

Visit us on the web: stlakedg.org



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