



All Are Welcome!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, January 31 at 10:30am

Zoom invitation will be posted.

Get ready, get set, ZOOM! Our 2021 annual meeting will be held on Zoom Sunday, January 31. In addition to approving the budget for 2021, we will be electing new members to Church Council as well as new members to the Personnel, Nominating and Trust Fund Committees.

Our plan is to have written ballots ahead of time for those who prefer the non-tech approach. Standby for more information about that.

During these pandemic times, by Oregon law, we can make exceptions to what our constitution says about how voting is done. Everything will be by the book, just a bit different this year. Thanks in advance for your understanding. ~ Dean Gustafson, Council President

REMINDERS:

▶ **Annual Reports Due: January 4, 2021**

▶ **Special Budget Forum: January 17, 2021 during Virtual Coffee Time**

Pastor's Corner

Manifesting the Kin-dom of God

The Lord called again, 'Samuel!' ~ 1 Samuel 3:6

Again. There is grace in this word. There is also challenge. Although Samuel in this story, which we will read in this Epiphany season, misinterprets God's call the first two times, God keeps calling until Samuel engages. A Sunday later, we will hear part of the story of Jonah, where the Word of YHWH comes to Jonah again – even after Jonah's open rebellion.

"Again" reveals a pattern of God's behavior: faithful, persistent, never giving up on those whom God has chosen. Over and over again, no matter our distractions or fears, no matter our selfishness or judgmentalism, God reaches out to us, calling us into meaningful lives of mercy and justice in God's own name. The apostle Paul reminds us that God's love is so fierce and determined, that nothing will ever separate us from that love in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39)

"Again" also reveals God's call upon us: like John the Baptizer, we get to proclaim Christ again and again. In an isolated and pandemic-driven January, in the face of the loneliness and insecurity, we get to keep on loving and serving one another and the wider community. Even when we are tired. Even when we are afraid. We get up in the morning and practice God's love again. We do so clinging to the promise that God's love will never give up on us. We hold fast to God's "again."

Love again, Pastor Beth

P.S. Here is a lovely musical rendition of again:

"Keep Going On Song" by the Bengsons:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cs-ju_L9pEQ

WORSHIP

Opening Update – see our website for the latest information.

January 3: Epiphany!

January 10: Baptism of our Lord

Baptisms with the St. Luke Community

- William Amsden
- Andreas Esteban Peirce and Dominic Kenneth Peirce

January 24: Guest Preacher Melissa Reed, Bishop's Associate for Vital Leadership and Sacramental Organizing and St. Luke member.

Agape Meals Sundays at 5:00pm – "Agape" is the New Testament Greek work for "self-giving love". In the Christian tradition an "Agape" is also the name for informal meals when Christians gather in prayer and share a simple meal reminding us that we are one in the Spirit. Bring bread, drink, and an open heart.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81795477679?pwd=UXdyUWQ5K3VWQmDsOUphODZwak5lZz09>

Virtual Worship Services Continue

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Luke has been livestreaming and posting prerecorded worship services of the 9:30am Sunday worship on our Facebook page. Our virtual worship producer Christopher Polanco, produces our Facebook and YouTube Sunday morning services which can be found on our St. Luke webpage www.stlukechurch.com by clicking on the Facebook icon and the current date. Chris is working with the pastors, Dan Hibbett, Jim Steele, Gerry Reese, and individual musicians to assemble and edit prerecorded audio/video clips of the various elements of our worship service.

We want to thank all of our families (parents and children) and adults who have led in the Prayers of the People and the Gospel Acclamations, including musical refrains for you to sing along with while watching from home.

Our organist, Tom Skyler, has been recording solo organ selections for use as preludes and postludes in addition to Molly Wheeler's piano solos. Gerry Reese is working with Chris to continue to create master DVD's of these broadcasts which can be copied and given to seniors and shut-ins who do not have access to the internet. If you would like a copy, please call or email Leslie in the church office so that we can have them available for pick up or delivery by our visitation team or pastors.

Virtual Rejoice Choir continues in January

The Rejoice Choir will continue to create a virtual choir anthem each month for our Sunday morning Facebook services. I continue to record and edit individual vocal tracks before sending them to **Jim Steele** for final revisions. He compiles all the individual recordings into a master audio track, synching and balancing them to create a blended choral sound. We have been creating the virtual choir video once a month during our weekly Thursday night choir zoom meetings. We will continue to incorporate prerecorded choir anthems from past "Musical Reflections" concerts and worship services into our Sunday morning Facebook worship broadcasts as appropriate.

St. Luke Ringers are limited to no more than 6 people due to the governor's "freeze" on indoor gatherings which began on Wednesday, November 18.

Ringers will begin work on small ensemble pieces rehearsing in masks in the narthex on Wednesday nights, 7:30-8:15pm beginning mid-January with the goal of creating a video clip once a month for use in our Sunday morning virtual worship services.

~ Dan Hibbett, St. Luke Music Director

CONNECT

Pastor Patti would like to know...

This has been an unusually challenging year for all of us. If you have suffered financial set-back due to the pandemic or other circumstances, please reach out to Pastor Patti for prayer, a listening ear, and assistance. She can be reached by calling the church office or at pastorpatti@stlukechurch.com.

How are you doing? And how can we best support you? Your pastors would like to know. Please take one to three minutes to complete a 3-question survey: <https://forms.gle/vXyEYHUhvTxxWK5D9>

Adult Education:

Mindfulness Epiphanies in the Journey Centering

Prayer and Mindfulness deepen our understanding of self. Such practices in community grow our experiences of God -- creating sacred space for discomfort and for peace, for emptiness and for fullness. **Join us 7-8pm on Wednesdays in January** as we explore different centering prayers and meditation practices while building community.

Zoom Invite:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89908981072?pwd=Tk44RUw5dkxDeXB3bDVYTkxpeVdwZz09>

Meeting ID: 899 0898 1072 • Passcode: 657085

Conversations Around Race: Join us on Saturday mornings January 9 and 23 at 10:00am to process current events and race. Facilitated by Bing Swigart, each session features a different, timely theme and creates a safe space for discussion and questions.

For more information email:

communityconversationsaroundrace@stlukechurch.com

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85912685293?pwd=K3NzcTZKYUZyZdEx6M2xSRmxtbmsvUT09>

Meeting ID: 859 1268 5293 Passcode: 983763

Anti-Racism Book Study: Tuesdays January 5 and 19, 4:00 ~ 5:00pm

At our first re-gathering in the new year the next book to read will be decided.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85126539017?pwd=TGc4SDI5akE4WnpMQXhZOUgwelJiQT09>

Connecting Online

Twitter - Follow St. Luke: [@StLuke_Church](https://twitter.com/StLuke_Church)

► Right now, you may amplify our daily devotions with the links that are provided in our Twitter feed. It's easy and it shows more about who we are as a congregation with daily lay and pastoral messages we can share.

Instagram - Find us at [st_luke_portland](https://www.instagram.com/st_luke_portland)

► This is a wonderful way to share photos and comment on them, as well as share photos as part of your story.

[#GodsWorkOurHands](https://www.instagram.com/hashtag/GodsWorkOurHands)

[#WorshipConnectServe](https://www.instagram.com/hashtag/WorshipConnectServe)

[#FindStLukeLutheranAndFollowUs2020](https://www.instagram.com/hashtag/FindStLukeLutheranAndFollowUs2020)

Coffee Time ~ Sundays at 10:30am

Gather for fellowship and discussion related to the sermon or for a special update or event.

Zoom invite:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89410016496?pwd=QWNGMytQUFIUQVdlMUw5a1NjQnJJQT09>

Meeting ID: 894 1001 6496

Passcode: 712869

Every Women's Bible Evening Study Sunday, January 3, 6:30-8:00pm

Zoom link: <https://pdx.zoom.us/j/8376302680>

Community Conversations Around Race

Join us on Saturday mornings: January 9 and 23 at 10am to process current events and race. Facilitated by Bing Swigart, each session features a different, timely theme and creates a safe space for discussion and questions. For more information email: communityconversationsaroundrace@stlukechurch.com.

Invite:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85912685293?pwd=K3NzcTZKYUZyZdEx6M2xSRmxtbmsvUT09>

Meeting ID: 859 1268 5293 Passcode: 983763

Circles' Bible Study

Monday, January 4: 9:30 ~ 11:00am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4386280314?pwd=TWkzWkFMalhFc3JiUmpVcFQzYkZhdz09>

Meeting ID: 438 628 0314

Passcode: Sarah

By phone: 253 215 8782 USM

Meeting ID: 438 628 0314

Passcode: 365531

Women's Bible Study ~ Tuesdays at 8am

<https://zoom.us/j/501766676?pwd=N1RKSTRTRU96NDdZeE9GaZzDeUpMQT09>

Meeting ID: 501 766 676

Password: 378366

Men's Breakfast Bible Study: Tuesdays at 7am

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79584872315?pwd=NDFwVFpXQ3dNR0U2Tnp4alNRaXRaZz09>

Meeting ID: 795 8487 2315

Passcode: 1bTcTb

Second Sunday Book Group ~ 10:45am

January 10: Reader's Choice

February 14 – "Homegoing" by Yaa Gyasi

Contact: Caryl Walker

Zoom information. Please be sure to use your name on your device when you join the meeting, so the gatekeeper (Jan E) knows who you are.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88958687710?pwd=eHQ3bVNCk3NKS1JVENIa2pNNEptdz09>

Meeting ID: 889 5868 7710

Password: 391236

Phone only: 669-900-6833

SERVE

Thank you for giving to the Giving Tree!

In November and December, we asked you to sign up to provide Christmas gifts for the residents at the Letty Owings center and also refugee families through Lutheran Community Services. As always – the members of St. Luke responded in great love – and all 100+ gifts were taken, purchased, wrapped and delivered to St. Luke in plenty of time to be delivered for Christmas!! Thank you so very much for your generosity!

Thank you to the volunteers that worked shifts in the narthex to receive gifts as they were delivered: Cathy Spofford, Jane Chan, Gaile Baack, Carolyn Loch, Gary Tremper and Rachel Chan! Super kudos to Jeff Ross who interfaced with both agencies and coordinated all of the gift requests. Jeff and Kasey Flicker did the deliveries.

Many thanks to Gayla Ross for creating our SignUpGenius page to make it possible to accomplish the Giving Tree event in a safe and efficient way! We appreciate everyone who had a part in making this Christmas a bit brighter for a lot of families!



Thank Yous and Shout Outs!

- ★**To all** who wrote cards or gave Christmas gifts to St. Luke staff, thank you!
- ★**To all** who volunteered and participated in the Living Nativity Drive Thru – special shout-out to Chryisia and Andrew Watson and to Kim Weber, who spearheaded the event!
- ★**To all** who helped with our Advent and Christmas services especially to Stephanie Schoap and Kristi Baack, who made our Livestream Holden Evening Prayer possible!
- ★**To all** who took part in our St. Luke Family Christmas, and to the team who coordinated our Secret Santa activity: Dorene Mollenhauer, Susan Tremper, Jane Chan, and Pastor. Beth.

Mini-Pantry Update!



Deschutes

Our winning design for the first mini pantry is Deschutes! The wood has been cut and is ready to paint with thanks to Ryan Carpenter, Tom Lynham, and John Kresl.

We can invite up to 17 households to help paint the different parts of our pantry!

If you are interested in joining in the fun and goodness of this project, please contact Ryan Carpenter: rcarpenter05@gmail.com.

All members are invited to participate!

IN THE FAMILY

PRAYERS: Kim Weber (gall bladder), Jim Seiffert (tested positive for COVID): father of Sue Seiffert, Marlene Roth (cancer), Lisa Lynham (breast cancer), Carrie Laurence (surgery), Patty Farrell's mother and family, David Hayne's mother, Priscilla, Joanne Haynes, Dale Benson's brother Jordan Benson (cancer) and sister Carol and her husband (cancer), Lawrence and Sandra Carasco, George Branson (knee replacement surgery), David Osenberg (cancer treatment), John Jessen, Barb Dahlgren, Annette and Paul parents of Kim Weber, Hal Yackley, Daniel Alrick, Georgann Dustan, Gary Hofsommer, Henry Heuer (in remission), Will Heuer (nursing home), Wendy Metz, Bonnie Brunk, Dottie Inman, Dee Mills, Harry Flesher, Jeremy Eckhardt, and those incarcerated.

GOD'S PEOPLE PRAYING.....



For prayers in emergency, specific events in your life (happy or sad) or in any case you feel the need for others to be praying with you, St. Luke has Prayer Chains that take phone calls day and night.

The church office or one of our pastors:
503-246-2325

Day calls: (8am ~ 5pm) **Rujeanne Anderson**
503- 297-2246

Night calls: (after 5pm) **Carol Greene**
503-245-4189

Calls Are Confidential.

DIGITAL NEWSLETTER?

Each month, "The Messenger" (St. Luke newsletter), is posted to the church website, a link is sent via MailChimp directly to our members and papers copies are sent via the U.S. post office.

If you are comfortable receiving the newsletter electronically please help us to save on paper, ink and postage costs.

PLEASE, CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE IF WE CAN SIGN YOU UP FOR DIGITAL ONLY. THANKS!
office@stlukechurch.com



Daniel Stark	1/1	Greta Halvorson	1/14
Laura Votava	1/1	Jim Steele	1/14
Joseph (Joe) Lairson	1/1	Carol Lindeman	1/16
Luke Patrick	1/1	Mark Dustan	1/16
Soren Holmberg	1/1	Elliot Nuss	1/17
Joan Frazer	1/2	Connie Liakos	1/17
Ian Wolf	1/2	Leah Gresia	1/18
Jonah Cunningham-Parmeter	1/2	Jack Chesnutt	1/18
Owen Dustan	1/3	Nathaniel Montplaisir	1/18
Benjamin Roley	1/3	Gloria Miniszewski	1/19
Sophia Flicker	1/3	Roger Wicklund	1/20
Christine Fauske	1/3	David Haynes	1/21
Jean Nichols	1/4	Jeffrey Higgins	1/21
Gary Miniszewski	1/4	Addison Reinke	1/21
Brian Els	1/4	Natalie Stamper	1/22
Jami Flicker	1/4	Kara Lammerman	1/22
William Wood	1/5	Tim Grabe	1/22
Haley Wilson	1/5	Jaxson Peirce	1/22
Marilyn Simmons	1/6	Brian Hanna	1/23
Harrison Dreyer	1/6	Tara Drangstveit-Pacheco	1/23
August Dreyer	1/6	Ronda Reynolds	1/24
Raingard Kuhse	1/6	Matt Piwonka	1/24
Hilde Halvorson	1/6	Tyley Petering	1/24
Emily Wood	1/7	Jon Loch	1/24
Hannah Blume	1/9	Eliana Kraby	1/24
Andrea Lairson	1/9	Sandy McIsaac	1/24
Wilbur Menicosy	1/9	Jeff Martini	1/24
Diane Swingen	1/9	Arne Fromme	1/25
Cindy Fadyn	1/10	Joe Gantt	1/25
Stella Insalaco	1/10	Jennifer Niemeyer	1/25
Judy Sims	1/10	Nancy Feldman	1/26
Tai Dustan	1/10	Blake Wehling	1/26
Kyle Jessen	1/10	Darlene Durgan	1/26
Maggie Shelly	1/11	Conor Arthur	1/26
James Weeks	1/11	Michael Ford	1/26
Anna Taylor	1/11	Sophie Pratasiewicz	1/26
Geraldine Foote	1/11	Craig Novack	1/26
Caleb Stephens	1/12	Joy Ramsby	1/27
Gary Heuer	1/12	Daniel Carpenter	1/29
Steve Mileham	1/12	Mika Chesnutt	1/29
Calla Snowden	1/12	Catie Schlechter	1/29
Marlene Clarke	1/12	Emma Hayes	1/30
Jan Eames	1/13	Molly Moreland	1/30
Laure Patrick	1/13	Ellerey Nelson	1/31
Chris Ulmer	1/13	Tyler Mitchell	1/31
Luke Maier	1/13	Andrew Burke	1/31
Julie Ferguson	1/13	Melia Patrick	1/31

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Teaming with the Watson Family, we spearheaded another drive-through just in time for Christmas. A very soggy Pacific Northwest parade was held on Sunday, December 20th.

Our stalwart company (geared up in rain repellent outerwear) set up canopies, created homespun dioramas of the Christmas story, and beyond gifting popcorn and cedar branches? Spread a whole lot of Christmas cheer!

Attendance and food donations were just as strong as our November 22 drive through!

A HUGE THANK YOU EVERYONE for your gifts – from volunteering, to planning, to attending!

Our community light is strong and bright

Children's Sunday Morning Zoom:
classes resume Sunday, January 10, 2021

CHRISTMAS COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Merry Christmas from St. Luke Children's Ministry!



Insalaco Kids make a darling Manger Scene!
Max, Margo, Stella (with pet bunny), and Jack



**Mark, Katie, Stella (with bunny), Jack,
Margo and Max Insalaco**



Our Innkeeper Susan Johnson not outdone by the rain.
This lady can create a theater stage anywhere!



★Dave Medford, one of our (very wet) volunteers



★Jane Chan and Susan Tremper: our parade greeters



★Judy Willis and Lisa Sickler: food collection

Middle School Ministries/Confirmation
*Seeking to Immerse Middle Schoolers
in the Love of God*



271-86 Seobinggo-dong, Yongsan-gu, Seoul, South Korea, Seobinggo-dong

★ **Service Project: College Student Care Packs**
Item collection January 3

★ **Gatherings on Zoom Sundays at 11am:**

January 10

January 17 – Anti-Racism.

Special guest: Word is Bond

January 24 – Christ Kin reveal! Contact Joan:

vanderweele@comcast.net



Emma and Lee Hayes "Census"
Christmas Community Connection
on December 20th

St. Luke Youth NEWS ***SLY IN JANUARY***

**Join us for Zoom SLY Sunday on these
three Sundays at 11am!**

**January 10 ~ Pastor Beth shares with us
and we welcome you all back from the
holiday break!**

January 17 and 24

If you need the Zoom info contact Judy:
judy@stlukechurch.com



SLY ZOOM GAME NIGHT!!

JANUARY 23 – 7:30pm

**SLY is hosting another virtual game night
led by Laurel Skinner with all your adult
leaders there to take on the challenge!
We will be sending you some info and
supplies by mail the week before – but put
it on your calendar now!
We want to see YOU!!**


REMINDER:

January 3 – NO SLY Sunday holiday break

January 31 - NO SLY Sunday

▶ St. Luke Annual Meeting begins 10:30am

SAVE THIS WEEK: June 20-26, 2021
Probable Summer Service Trip Dates

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JANUARY 2021 <i>(Please note all meetings/events are virtual)</i>					1 HAPPY NEW YEAR! ●Buildings Closed●	2
3 EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD 9:30am Worship 10:30am Coffee Time 5:00pm Agape Meal 6:30pm Every Women's Evening Bible Study	4 9:30am Circles Bible Study	5 7:00am Men's Bible Study 8:00am Women's Bible Study 10:00am Staff Meeting 2:30pm Worship Planning Meeting 4-5pm Anti- Racism Study Group	6 Epiphany Of Our Lord 4:00pm Prayer Pause 7:00~8:00pm Adult Education:	7 7:30pm Choir Mtg.	8	9 10:00am Community Conversation Around Race
10 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 9:30am Worship (with Baptisms) 10:15am 5 th grade 10:30am Coffee Time Pre-K (3 years) ~ 1 st grade Parent Group 10:45am Second Sunday Book Group 11:00am: 2 nd ~ 4 th grades MSM and SLY 5:00pm Agape Meal	11 6:00pm Stephen's Ministry NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	12 7:00am Men's Bible Study 8:00am Women's Bible Study 10:00am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Finance Committee	13 4:00pm Prayer Pause 7:00~8:00pm Adult Education:	14 7:30pm Choir Mtg.	15	16 <u>NO</u> : Northeast Emergency Food Program
17 2ND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 9:30am Worship 10:15am 5 th grade 10:30am Coffee Time Pre-K (3 years) ~ 1 st grade Parent Group 11:00am: 2 nd ~ 4 th grades MSM (guest) and SLY 5:00pm Agape Meal	18 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY <u>Buildings Closed</u> Winter Begins	19 7:00am Men's Bible Study 8:00am Women's Bible Study 10:00am Staff Meeting 4-5pm Anti- Racism Study Group 6:30pm Council Mtg.	20 4:00pm Prayer Pause 7:00~8:00pm Adult Education	21 7:30pm Choir Mtg.	22	23 10:00am Community Conversation Around Race 7:30pm SLY Game Night
24 3RD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY Guest Preacher: Melissa Reed 9:30am Worship 10:15am 5 th grade 10:30am Coffee Time Pre-K (3 years) ~ 1 st grade Parent Group 11:00am: 2 nd ~ 4 th grades MSM and SLY 5:00pm Agape Meal	25	26 7:00am Men's Bible Study 8:00am Women's Bible Study 10:00am Staff Meeting	27 4:00pm Prayer Pause	28 7:30pm Choir Mtg.	29	30 <u>2:00-3:30pm</u> Community Table Food Box Distribution
31 4TH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY 9:30am Worship 10:30am Annual Congregational Meeting <u>No Classes</u> 5:00pm Agape Meal	 St. Luke LUTHERAN CHURCH					Worship † Connect † Serve