



# BRINGING YOU GOOD NEWS Luke 2:10

## DECEMBER 2023

### Reflections with Your Rector



**A Blessed and Joyful Advent to you all!** And may you all have a very merry Christmas. This is a shorter Advent this year, with the fourth Sunday of Advent the same day as Christmas

Eve. Even so, it is a holy time of anticipation, preparation, and hope for the coming of Christ. I hope that this holy season brings you many moments of joy, peace, wonder, and quiet gratitude.

*O that you would tear open the heavens and come down! (Isaiah 64:1a)*

So begins the first scripture we will hear on the first Sunday of Advent. What intense yearning in this cry of Isaiah, in his own time of turmoil as the world seemed bleak and bent toward destruction! There is something in each of us that feels this kind of intense cry to God.

“Come down, God, and set things right again. Come and help us.” In Advent, we join the cries of the world for God’s Light and Wisdom to come. And as we cry out, we also sing, and we prepare our homes, and we make space in our hearts, and we open ourselves once again to others with warmth and care. All so that we are ready, in our bodies, minds, and hearts, to see and welcome Christ the Light.

*Restore us, O God of hosts; Show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved. (Psalm 80:3)*

*We wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. (2 Peter 3:13)*

In Christ, a new creation dawns. Advent is like rising to meet the dawn, waiting for the sun to break through the horizon and allowing ourselves to be embraced by the growing light of this New Day. We allow space for yearning, wonder, and joy.

Each year, we sing in the glory and wonder of God coming so closely among us, in the flesh, fully human in Jesus. We have our three Sundays of Lessons and Carols: the **second Sunday of Advent** (December 10), the **first Christmas Sunday** of the twelve days of Christmas (December 31), and the **first Sunday of Epiphany** (January 7). No sermons those days – we make the sermons together in our singing and reading of scripture.

See **Rector** (continued on page 2)



### COMING EVENTS

DECEMBER'S REVERSE OFFERING WILL GO TO COMPANION ANIMALS CENTER

- December 2—Snowflake Faire, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
- December 3—Advent begins
- December 5—Contemplative Prayer on Zoom, 5:30 p.m.; Men’s Group, 6 p.m. at Elmer’s
- December 8—Parish Hall Conversations, 10 a.m.
- December 10—Advent Lessons & Carols
- December 12—Men’s Study Group, 6-7 p.m.
- December 16—Greening of the Church & Many C’s of Christmas, 9 a.m.
- December 19—Contemplative Prayer on Zoom, 5:30 p.m.
- December 21—Daughters of the King, 11 a.m. in the Alison Library; Vestry meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- December 10—December 24—Advent IV service at 9 a.m. (only service in the morning); Christmas Eve services at 5 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.
- December 31—Christmas Lessons & Carols; 5th Sunday Fellowship, 8:45-9:45 a.m.
- January 6—Epiphany; King Cake decorating party, 5 p.m.
- January 7—Epiphany Lessons & Carols; King Cakes at coffee hours

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*Rector (continued from page 1)*

And of course there are join our **festive Christmas Eve services at 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. on December 24**. That same morning (which is also the fourth Sunday of Advent), we will only have one Sunday morning service, at 9 a.m.

*He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep. (Isaiah 40:10-11)*

I hope that each of us, in our homes and neighborhoods, and together at St. Luke's, will experience and offer the warmth of Christ Jesus' loving embrace. We look forward to kicking off the season of Advent with a warm welcome to people throughout Coeur d'Alene and North Idaho to come and enjoy our **Snowflake Faire on December 2**, with gifts and warm food available for all. Each Sunday of Advent, we also have wonderful **intergenerational activities** planned to bring children and adults of all ages together to share in holiday activities – making Advent wreaths, creating cards to give to people, greening the church, making cookies to share, and joining with each other in telling the stories of Jesus' birth and childhood.

We enter this time of hope, preparation, and celebration together, but also in our own homes, alone or with other family members and friends. We take time to pray and read, and just to be quiet and resting in God's presence. St. Luke's is once again providing Advent devotional booklets for families and for seniors.

**"Light Shines in the Darkness"** – a Scripture verse each day, plus prayer, conversation and activities for families, to explore God's light shining through the ages, and how we can share God's light with others.

**"Season of Peace"** – readings each day for seniors to reflect on spiritual experiences of Advents gone by, and on how to share faithfully with younger generations the reason for our peace, who is Jesus.

**"Christmas Calendar"** – for the 12 Days of Christmas that *follow* Christmas Day, a calendar with an invitation for prayer or action each day to celebrate Christ born among us.

*Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." (Luke 1:37)*

Advent brings us right to the moment of saying "Yes" to God, of opening ourselves to the possibility of God calling us to something quite extraordinary and quite unplanned in our lives – something that will have ripple effects far beyond what we can imagine or foresee. How is God calling you? How is God calling St. Luke's, for ministry and mission in 2024?

I am so grateful for the many ways you say "Yes" to God's call in your lives, here in this faith community of St. Luke's and in the many communities where you live and work and learn and play. I am grateful for the gifts of your time, your talents and skills, and your financial offerings, for the sake of building and sustaining this church that is dedicated to sharing, showing, and celebrating Christ's love with all people around us in North Idaho and Eastern Washington.

As we look toward the new year, **I ask you all to plan and pledge your support for St. Luke's in 2024**. We are still reaching for our financial goal of \$225,000. Many thanks to those who have already pledged!

Here are important reasons to pledge a promise of giving:

- ◇ Your pledge is a sign of "skin in the game" – participating in this church's ministry and mission.
- ◇ Your pledge entrusts part of yourself to a body of folks following Jesus together, sharing in our vision to share, celebrate, and embody the love of Jesus here in north Idaho.
- ◇ Your pledge helps us plan responsibly for what can be possible for us to do in Christian formation, fellowship, and care and impact in our wider community.

Everyone – we want you to get involved in making the mission and ministry of St. Luke's happen! You are part of Christ's body, here. And your contribution is important. I invite you all to reach out to each other, get to know each other better, encourage one another in your life and faith, and invite each other into ways of offering yourselves here at St. Luke's and in the wider community.

Enjoy this holy season, as part of Christ's body today. We are vessels for the love, light, wisdom, and grace of Jesus Christ who is Emmanuel, God-with-us. Let us be the Light that rises each day dawning within us, and let us seek and serve Christ the Light in all people.



Advent and Christmas blessings!

*Fr. David*

# Prayer & Worship

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Josh Johnson	15 Ian Hicks
4 Kinzo Mihara	16 Bill Cook
5 Ann Donaldson	17 Dianne Pratt
6 Jimmy Benson	18 David Brooks
9 Jonathan Sedgwick	20 Christopher Wigley
10 Noah D'Alessandro	22 Ed Kerns
10 Kate Khorsand	22 Jennifer Parzanici
10 Gwen Letson	27 Clark McKee
11 Jenna Schultz	27 Cora Mihara
14 Donna Kalberg	28 Lynn Curry
14 Pat Lund	28 Daniel Dolan



## ANNIVERSARIES

18 Gretchen & Jim Curtis
27 Robbyn & Chris Thomas
28 Janet & Al Anderson
28 Marcia & Walt Siring
28 Nancy Sue & Marc Wallace
29 Jo & Gayne Clifford

*If your birthday or anniversary is incorrect or does not appear, please notify the office so it can be corrected or added to the parish records.*

## PRAYERS

**Healing, Strength and Peace** — We pray to you, Christ Jesus, please bring your healing and strengthening to Barbara Webb, Chris and Robbyn Thomas, Dave Phifer, Ann Rule, Jill Kalberg, Milli Larson, Sean Whelan, Walt Siring, Andre Smith, Claudia, Jo, Julian Wheeler, John McTear, Michael Fain, John Albee, David Brooks, Lynn Curry, Eric Paavola, Ruth Ann Jones, Ted and Beverly Jordan, Mary Kay Hanson, Martha Vilandr , Hal Worth, Bill Watt, Kenneth Smith, Carl Vanslyke, Christine Benson, Mike Magura, Catalina Rose, Marilyn Otto, Carol Owren, Karen Gillenwater, Jamie Ziegler, Jane Jackson, Summer Taylor, Robin Reyes, Mary Jensen, Barbara Lee, Leslie Erickson, Ginger Wright.

**Memorial Service** — Jane Brooks

## DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

### December 3: **Episcopal Migration Ministries**

We pray for those without house or home, those on the road or living in-between, those seeking refuge, and for those helping the stranger on their journey through a strange land. We also give thanks for the birthdays of The Revs. Peter Kalunian (12/4), Ellie Shapton (12/6), Ginny Krekling (12/8), Rick Matters (12/9), and Ann Howard (12/10).



### December 10: **Grace Church**, Dayton and Ellensburg

We pray for the mission and ministry of Grace Church of Dayton and Ellensburg. We also give thanks for the birthday of The Rev. Kay Totten (12/15).

### December 17: **St. Stephen's**, Spokane

We pray for the mission and ministry of St. Stephen's, Spokane. We also give thanks for the birthday of The Rev. Jeff Neuberger (12/20).

### December 24: **Church of the Nativity**, Lewiston

We pray for the mission and ministry of the Church of the Nativity in Lewiston.

### December 31: **The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist**

We pray for the mission and ministry of St. John's Cathedral.

**World Council of Churches' ecumenical prayer cycle:** <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle>

**Worldwide Anglican Church prayer cycle:** [https://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/422641/acp\\_from-aba-to-zululand-2021-to-2023\\_web.pdf](https://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/422641/acp_from-aba-to-zululand-2021-to-2023_web.pdf)

# Prayer & Worship

## New Diocesan Theme for 2024: Speak, Lord, We Are Listening



The diocesan theme for 2024 is “Speak, Lord, we are listening!” We hear the call of Samuel in these words, and we hear our own calls. We hear us listening as a community together. We hear us being courageous enough to actually ask God to speak to us!

As you engage in taking your faith into all areas of your life, as you follow Jesus “seven whole days, not one in seven” ask God to speak to you, and then listen, and be prepared, you just might be surprised by what you hear!

Congregants are encouraged to practice the Daily *Examen*, a technique of prayerful reflection on the events of the day in order to detect God's presence and discern his direction for us. Bookmarks with the morning and evening examen prayers and reflections are available in the parish office.

### Diocesan Prayer for 2024

Creator of all, you speak life into being and call us into holy community. Open our ears to listen, enliven our curiosity to learn, and hasten our courage to respond. Teach us how to listen and love as you do, joining with all of creation as we proclaim and embody your Good News in all that we undertake. May the Spirit's breath empower us to live these words we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Midweek Worship Opportunities

**Noonday Intercessory Prayer:** The service, found on page 103 of the Book of Common Prayer, is offered weekly on Wednesdays in person in the sanctuary and on Zoom. A brown bag lunch and open conversation follows the service.

**Contemplative Prayer Service:** This service is offered on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 5:30 p.m. by Zoom only.

Check the weekly Friday Memo email for Zoom links.



<https://www.fun.birmingham.org/midweek-prayer-on-zoom/>

## Praise Dance



Praise Dance, taught by Lyndi Phifer, is offered at church on Wednesdays at 2 p.m. You can direct questions to Lyndi at [lyndiphifer@icloud.com](mailto:lyndiphifer@icloud.com). All ages are welcome.

# Learning Opportunities

## Final Tending the Vine Monthly Zoom Session

The final session of this free series will be on Thursday, December 7, from 7-8 p.m. and will be a recap and celebration of the year's studies.

If you need the Zoom link, call the diocesan office at 509-624-3191 or email Administrative Assistant Jeremy Armstrong at [jeremya@spokanediocese.org](mailto:jeremya@spokanediocese.org).



# Learning Opportunities

## A Meditation for Advent and Christmas Season



### John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.



# Learning Opportunities

## Diocesan Guided Book Group Concludes December 21

### *My Grandmother's Hands*, An In-Depth Exploration of Healing Racialized Trauma



The final meeting of this book study group will take place on Zoom on Thursday, December 21, from 7-9 p.m. Space is limited. For more information and to register, visit [https://www.spokanediocese.org/digital\\_faith/events/3187499](https://www.spokanediocese.org/digital_faith/events/3187499).

Look for new book groups to come in the new year.

### Book Studies at St. Luke's

- **Beginning November 8: *I Believe in the Holy Spirit***, by Michael Green. Green traces the doctrine of the Holy Spirit through the Bible, discusses the baptism and gifts of the Spirit, and addresses the dynamic, ongoing work of the Spirit in today's church and world. Contact Jill Kalberg ([jill.kalberg@gmail.com](mailto:jill.kalberg@gmail.com) or 805-551-4048) for more information. **Wednesday afternoons at 1 p.m.**
- The Wednesday afternoon 4 p.m. book study group will be on hiatus in December and possibly January. Stay tuned for more information.



If you are interested in being part of these book studies, sign up on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Watch the Friday Memo emails for more information on schedules and new book selections. Fr. David also encourages everyone to read the Meditation for Advent and Christmas Season on p. 5 of this newsletter.

# Life Together

## Rooted in Abundance: Stewardship Campaign Continues

*They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green, in the year of drought, it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. – Jeremiah 17:8*



Your gifts of time, talent, and treasure are what make St. Luke's so special and enable us to carry out our mission. With falling leaves and snow (!!!), we need to plan and budget for 2024, and we need your help.

Our theme for 2024 is "Rooted in God's Abundance," a reminder that all we have is because of God's abundance. Please participate! You should have received a letter and pledge card; if not, pledge cards are available in the parish office. Place your pledge card in the gold box in the nave, or send an email to the office ([admin@stlukesca.org](mailto:admin@stlukesca.org)). Your pledge helps us to plan the mission and ministry of our church life together at St. Luke's, and our involvement and outreach to the wider community. And, of course, it will help us keep the lights on!

Our goal is \$225,000, and so far we've received pledges of approximately \$108,000. Thank you for prayerfully considering what your pledge can be for 2024.

# Life Together

## Eleanor Otilie Empsall Baptized on All Saints Sunday

Eleanor Otilie Empsall, four months, was baptized on All Saints Sunday, November 5.

Eleanor is the daughter of Chris & Tracy Empsall, and the granddaughter of The Rev. Glenda & John Empsall.



*Deacon Glenda poured the water over Eleanor's head.*



*Eleanor is held by her godmother, Jessica Belben, while her dad, Chris, big brother, Oliver, and mom, Tracy look on.*



## Snowflake Faire

**Saturday, December 2, 9 a.m.-3p.m.**

Come enjoy crafts and gifts, the Treasure Trove, gift basket raffles, homemade goodies at The Pantry, and lunch at Maggie's Café. This parish favorite event has something for everyone.

Raffle tickets are still available for a chance to win one of four sensational baskets! Tickets are \$3 each, or four for \$10.

About half the money raised from Snowflake Faire goes to church needs. The other half goes to outreach in the local community and beyond, such as local food banks, Safe Passage, St. Vincent de Paul programs, Trinity Group Homes, Village of Hope, Family Promise, Companions Animal Center, The Village at Orchard Ridge, Episcopal Relief & Development, the Bishop's Scholarship Fund, Camp Cross, Doctors Without Borders - Ukraine, KIVA Loans (international microloans), and Heifer International.

We hope to see you there!

## The Giving Tree

This December we again have a Giving Tree in the reception area to help brighten the Christmas season for clients of St. Vincent de Paul and others in need in the community.

Ornaments on the tree will give you ideas of gift cards that are needed, and a box under the tree will receive your gifts.

Thank you all for your generosity.



## COVID Protocols for In-Person Worship and Outside Groups

**At all services**, please use your judgment regarding masking or not, in keeping with your own health and concern for others. Please practice COVID etiquette, respecting those exercising caution. If you have symptoms or have tested positive, please wait until you are healthy again to come to church – join us online. Zoom links are shared in the weekly Friday memo email.

# Life Together

## Vestry Highlights

### **MEETING OF NOVEMBER 16, 2023**

- Made adjustments to the Facilities Fee Use schedule as follows:
  - ◇ One Time Use: up to one hour \$40; more than one hour, up to two, \$60; ½ day \$75; full day \$125
  - ◇ Weekly Use: \$500 a week – allows use of the Hall for 4-6 continuous hours, up to five days in any one week (without disruption of church program schedule)
  - ◇ Alison Room with restroom: one time use \$20/hour; \$50 total for 3–5 hours use; weekly use: \$300 per week for use of room 2-3 continuous hours up to five days/week
  - ◇ Kitchen: full use of the kitchen and its equipment and appliances is available for an additional \$60/date of use.
- Approved cost of living raises and year-end bonuses for staff for 2024.
- Approved sending \$500 to Bishop's Discretionary Fund for Acapulco Hurricane Relief.

**Good Stewards:** Treasurer Dave Phifer; Children's Chapel helpers; October Coffee Hour hosts; Welcoming Committee for organizing 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Fellowship brunches.

**Next meeting:** Thursday, December 21, at 5:30 p.m. in the Alison Library. All are welcome to attend.

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## Advent Activities for Kids & Families

Advent is almost upon us, with lots of opportunities for children to have fun and experience the meaning of the season! We hope you can join us!

- ◇ Advent I, December 3: Wreath-making during coffee hour, an inter-generational event
- ◇ Advent II, December 10: Making Christmas cards for shut-ins and home bound folks
- ◇ Saturday, December 16: Greening of the church and activities for kids — Many Cs of Christmas
- ◇ Advent III, December 17: Baking and decorating cookies
- ◇ Christmas Eve
  - ◆ 9 a.m. Advent IV service — this will be the only Sunday morning service
  - ◆ 5 p.m. Christmas Eve service — family-friendly, all are welcome
  - ◆ 7:30 p.m. traditional Christmas Eve Service



## Women's Guild — No December Meeting Due to Snowflake Faire

The next meeting of St. Luke's Women's Guild will be on Tuesday, January 2, at 1 p.m.

Women's Guild meets every first Tuesday, September through May, at 1 p.m. for a short business meeting to plan community outreach and church events. Occasionally we have speakers, who will be announced in advance (all are welcome), and we follow the meeting with a scripture discussion for those who wish to stay.

All women of St. Luke's are always welcome to attend any Guild meeting. If you have any questions or need a ride, you can contact Marcia Siring (208-712-3326).

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## Men's Group Meets Tuesday, December 5, at 6 p.m. at Elmer's

St. Luke's Men's Group will meet on Tuesday, December 5, at 6 p.m. at Elmer's Restaurant. All are welcome to attend.

John Albee, Co-Chair (208-755-2296)

Paul Vilandr , Co-Chair (208-651-0990)

# Life Together

## KNIT ONE, PRAY TOO PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The mission of the Knit One, Pray Too Prayer Shawl Ministry is to create prayer shawls for people needing the warm arms of care and concern wrapped around them. Our members knit or crochet shawls that are given to persons who are dealing with illness, grief, or other types of crisis, and to mothers-to-be. Baptismal shawls are also presented in celebration of the occasion.



The ministry was founded in December, 2008, and we currently have 16 members. Membership is open to anyone who enjoys knitting or crocheting. We meet in the Alison Room every Monday at 9:30 a.m. September through May, and once a month June through August to work on shawls and pray for the recipients. The completed shawls are blessed on the first Sunday of each month at the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. services. To date, more than 1,393 shawls have been completed, blessed and presented to those in need of prayer. We also make Pocket Prayer Squares for our soldiers serving overseas, for the Healing Ministry and for anyone who would like to tuck one in their pocket.

In honor of our 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we will be celebrating the Prayer Shawl Blessing at the 8 and 10 a.m. services on Sunday, December 3. We will be hosting the Coffee Hour after the 10 a.m. service, and we hope you will join us to meet our members and offer your blessings on our prayer shawls.

The response to our shawls has been a blessing to each of us, and we thank everyone for your support. We believe our prayer shawls are a tangible gift of God's love and comfort, and we are blessed to share our ministry. We welcome you to join our ministry by making shawls with us or by making a donation toward the purchase of yarn. If you know of anyone in need of a prayer shawl, please do not hesitate to contact any member listed below.

Lynn Brooks

Judi Burks

Jo Clifford

Ann Donaldson

Deborah Douglas

Karen Jenkins

Donna Kalberg

Annette Knapp

Milli Larsen

Betsy McTear

Nan Palmer

Dianne Pratt

Robin Rutherford

Mary Robinette

Karen Skelton

Chris Swails

## Parish Hall Conversations, Friday, December 8 at 10 a.m.



There's nothing like a good cup of coffee and conversations with people you want to know. This group, led by Elizabeth Minter and Kim Morgan, is all about sharing encouragement, wisdom and inspiration. Bring your latte or a favorite mug with hot cocoa for an hour of lively talk around art, faith, life adventures, poetry and prose. You'll want to keep a notebook handy!

The next meeting will be on Friday, December 8 at 10 a.m.

Be ready for the **new schedule** coming in January! We will be meeting every Friday from 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. beginning January 5.

To get email reminders, contact Kim Morgan ([kimberlyemorgan@gmail.com](mailto:kimberlyemorgan@gmail.com)) or Elizabeth Minter (360-531-0731).

# Life Together

## St. Mary's Altar Guild

Advent has begun and soon we will celebrate our Lord's birth. We hope many of you will consider making Christmas donations for memorials and in thanksgiving. Your gifts will be used to decorate St. Luke's for Christmas and provide needed supplies in the coming months. This year in addition to our normal expenses, Altar Guild purchased new linens, repaired the large Brass Processional Cross and refurbished the Silver Chalices and Patens.



An offering envelope is enclosed with this newsletter. We hope to acknowledge all gifts in the Christmas bulletin. Due to publishing deadlines, please have your donations in by December 20 so that your name can be included in the Christmas service bulletin.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and support, and may your Christmas be blessed.

In love and service,

*Jo Clifford & Debbie Lane*  
Co-Directresses

**Our passion statement:**  
**Quietly serving Christ while caring for**  
**the beauty of the Sanctuary.**

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### Men's Study Group, Tuesday, December 12, 6 p.m.

Join us for a light meal and refreshments in the Parish Hall at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, December 12, for fellowship and spiritual discussion. As our Diocese is focusing on how we can better address the needs of our communities, this month we will continue discussing ways our faith actively informs how we interact with those around us.



Contact Dave Phifer (425-387-2881 or [n801dp@gmail.com](mailto:n801dp@gmail.com)) or Ian Hicks (714-742-3412 or [ianhicks@icloud.com](mailto:ianhicks@icloud.com)) to let them know that you are planning to attend to enable adequate catering arrangements.

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### Sign Up To Be a Coffee Hour Host! "Many Hands Make Light Work"

I'll be putting the schedule for the upcoming quarter on the bulletin board very soon.

I **beg** you to please sign up. Even better — grab another parishioner to sign up with you and divide the food preparation and purchasing and duties. Food does not have to be anything elaborate. Keep it simple! Instructions are posted in the kitchen.

Please call me with any questions.

Marcia Siring (208-712-3326)



# Life Together

## Greening of the Church & the Many C's of Christmas Saturday, December 16, at 10 a.m.

Join us on Saturday, December 16, for an event for families and folks of all ages!

We'll start our morning with *coffee, cocoa* and a few *Christmas Carols*. Adults and older kids will then *collaborate* to ready the evergreen boughs for the "greening of the church."

Meanwhile, the younger kids will participate in the "*Many C's of Christmas*" with lots of activities of their own. They'll decorate the Parish Hall Christmas tree, then make *Christmas cards, Christmas crafts* and ornaments, and *Christmas cookie dough*. They'll also be *collecting canned goods* for those people in our community who are hungry this Christmas. Finally, we'll all enjoy lunch together.

We hope to "*C*" you there!



The Greening of  
The Church

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## Fifth Sunday Fellowship Brunch Sunday, December 31, from 8:45-9:45 a.m.



When there is a fifth Sunday in the month, the Welcoming Committee celebrates with a Fifth Sunday Fellowship brunch between the two services.

This month the fifth Sunday falls on December 31, so bring leftover Christmas cookies or other Christmas goodies, or anything brunch-y you'd like to share to ring in the New Year. Meet folks from other services and celebrate the coming New Year this fifth Sunday!

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## ST. LUKE'S ENDOWMENT FUND

This is the time of year when we all receive many requests for year-end gifts.

We are in the midst of our stewardship campaign asking everyone to prayerfully consider their pledge to St. Luke's for the coming year so that we can budget for continued operation of our facility and ongoing support the many programs we engage in throughout the year. Your offerings, including pledged dollars, gets us through the year, with the grace of God and a minimal budget.

So with that being said, St. Luke's is asking for your further consideration. If you typically give gifts at the end of the year to charities, please consider our St. Luke's Endowment Fund. The Endowment Fund helps insure that there will be a rainy day fund, as well as a backup to any large expenditures we may have to make in the future to maintain our *OLD* but beautiful facility.

PLEASE feel free to contact any of the folks on the Planned Giving Committee to ask more about the Endowment Fund, how it works, and ways to give.

Be on the lookout as well for an informational gathering in the spring. The presentation and discussion may spark questions you didn't know you had.

*John Empsall, Ann Rule, Annette Knapp, Marc Wallace, Ian Hicks, Lumarie Lovey*  
Planned Giving Committee

# Life Together

## An Epiphany Treat at January 7 Coffee Hours

On Sunday, January 7, 2024, we will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, when we honor the Magi who “traveled afar” to see the baby Jesus at Bethlehem. King Cake will be served at coffee hour after the 8 & 10 a.m. services, as well as during Children’s Chapel to celebrate this special day on the Church calendar.



The custom of the King Cake was brought from France to New Orleans in the 1800s. It evolved from the Twelfth Night Festival. A dried bean was hidden inside the cake. Whoever found it received a year of good luck and was treated as royalty. Later, a tiny plastic baby was used to represent the baby Jesus . . . because Twelfth Night is when the Magi found the “babe wrapped in swaddling clothes.”

The frostings or sugars decorating this symbolic dessert are: purple (royalty), green (the growth of the Church to the Gentiles — out to the world beyond the Jewish community), and gold (one of the precious gifts). There will be a King Cake decorating party for kids and families on Saturday, January 6, at 5 p.m. Pizza included!

Come into the Parish Hall on January 7 to enjoy this Epiphany treat and perhaps find the little surprise inside.

*Lisa Nunlist*

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## Become an Acolyte



Adults and children ages six and older are welcome to become acolytes, a very visible and important ministry in our parish. An acolyte is a servant who assists the deacon and priest to help celebrate liturgies. We would especially love to add a few more adults to our roster! Training is provided.

If you or your child would like to become an acolyte, please contact Kate Dolan ([kfd819@gmail.com](mailto:kfd819@gmail.com) or 208-640-6522).

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## Thanks for Wearing Your Name Tag

THANKS to everyone for wearing your name tags regularly.

If you have difficulty finding your name tag on a Sunday morning, ask a greeter or usher for assistance. If you need a new name tag, there is a bright pink sign-up sheet on the desk in the reception area.



## DO A DOUBLE-CHECK!

If you are the last person in the building, *please*

**Lock doors. Lights out. Set alarm.**

Thank you!

**DOUBLE  
CHECK**

**DOUBLE  
CHECK**

# Life Together

## Make Your Space Reservation for 2024 Meetings and Events NOW!

Requests to use space are granted on a first-come, first-served basis and require the completion of the Facilities Use Application form, which is available at the reception desk in the parish office, at the media center in the Parish Hall, and on the church website. The form should be submitted to the Parish Administrator ***at least 60 days prior*** to the event or meeting.

Even if your group's annual event has taken place at the church in past years, please remember to submit the form to the office within the 60-day window. Requests by internal groups ***will not*** trump preexisting requests by outside groups, which are required to pay to use church facilities.



## Engaging Community

### Reverse Offering

We contributed generously to the needs of Safe Passage in October and St. Vincent de Paul in November. December offerings will be for Companions Animal Center, fka Kootenai Humane Society.

Also in December we will again do the Giving Tree collecting gift cards for St. Vincent de Paul clients. See p. 7 of this newsletter for details.

Questions? Call Jill Kalberg (805-551-4048).



### St. Luke's Reverse Advent Calendar

Use the insert to this newsletter to help those in need this Christmas season. Set aside one item a day in a box, then on Christmas Eve donate the box to a local program. Below are some places to take your items. The smaller food banks, though further away, tend to have more need. For all, call first for hours and directions.

- Athol Food Bank - 30355 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Athol 208-683-3244 (serves Athol, Bayview and Careywood)
- Coeur d'Alene Food Bank - 4942 Industrial Ave., Coeur d'Alene, 208-664-8757 ext. 3015
- Post Falls Food Bank - 415 E 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Post Falls, 208-773-0139
- Rathdrum Food Bank - 8027 W Main St., Rathdrum, 208-687-3696
- Safe Passage - 850 N 4<sup>th</sup> St., Coeur d'Alene, 208-664-9303
- Spirit Valley Food Bank - 82 Industrial Park, Spirit Valley, 208-623-3107



#### EDITORIAL POLICY

The newsletter contains articles of interest to members and friends of the congregation of St. Luke's Episcopal Church. The Newsletter Editor (alone or in cooperation with the Communications Ministry team) reserves the right to set submission deadlines, edit material for length or grammatical, punctuation or spelling errors, and decline material that is not in keeping with this policy. Every effort will be made to be inclusive. Any member is invited to submit story material directly to the Newsletter Editor at [kfd819@gmail.com](mailto:kfd819@gmail.com).

**DEADLINES:** Newsletter – 10<sup>th</sup> of each month to Kate Dolan—[kfd819@gmail.com](mailto:kfd819@gmail.com); Sunday bulletin & Friday Memo – Tuesdays by noon to parish office—[office@stlukesca.org](mailto:office@stlukesca.org).

# Engaging Community

## Chorale Coeur d'Alene Christmas Concerts

Tickets for Chorale Coeur d'Alene's Christmas concert "Light, Carols & Candles" are now available at [www.choralecda.com](http://www.choralecda.com). You'll want to be one of the first to snag your seats for these terrific concerts on December 7 & 8 at 7 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 812 N 5th St. in Coeur d'Alene. There will be tickets available at the door if any are left. They will sell out, so don't delay!



If these dates don't work for you, or if you're just wildly enamored of instrumental and choral Christmas music, the Chorale is also being featured with the Coeur d'Alene Symphony's "Holiday Magic" concert on Saturday, December 2, at 7:30 p.m. at Schuler Performing Arts Center on the NIC campus. We will be presenting several of the pieces on our own program, but with full orchestra. Tickets are available at [www.cdasympphony.org](http://www.cdasympphony.org).

We hope to see you over the holiday.

### HOW CAN WE KEEP FROM SINGING!

Tom Bacon & Judi Horton



Parishioners Ian & Janet Hicks (far left) participated with their Rotary chapter in the "Souport the End of Homelessness" fundraiser on November 2.

Professional and amateur chefs all prepared a soup to be tasted by attendees, who purchased "wooden nickels" to pay for their tastes.

The Souport fundraiser supports St. Vincent de Paul North Idaho's winter programming and warming center, which is open to anyone who needs shelter from the cold, wind and snow when temperatures drop below 28 degrees.



Ian & Janet at the Souport fundraiser.



Dec 2023 (Pacific Time - Los Angeles)

St. Lukes CDA

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 8am - HE I @ St. Luke's 10am - HELL service @ SL 1pm - AA Lost & Found @ 6:30pm - NA - Hope 9:30pm - Serious about	27 9:30am - Pr Shawl 10am - Family Promise @ 12pm - Lost & Found @ 4:30pm - Family Promise 6pm - AA Meeting - 12	28 11am - PEO @ Parish Hall 12pm - Lost & Found @ 1pm - Book club @ Allison 3:45pm - Girl Scout 2158 9:30pm - Serious about	29 12pm - Lost & Found @ 12pm - Noonday 1pm - Book Study @ 2:15pm - Praise Dance @ 4pm - Book Study @ St.	30 1pm - Snowflake Fair @ Parish Hall, kitchen 10am - CDA Art Assoc 12pm - Lost & Found @ 6:45pm - NA Meeting - 9:30pm - Serious about	1 12pm - Lost & Found @ 6:30pm - SA 12 step 9:30pm - Serious about	2 6:45am - St Luke's 9am - SA 12 Step group 12pm - Lost & Found 9:30pm - Serious about
3 Snowflake Fair @ Parish 8am - HE I @ St. Luke's 10am - HELL service @ SL 1pm - AA Lost & Found @ 6:30pm - NA - Hope	4 9:30am - Pr Shawl 10am - Family Promise @ 12pm - Lost & Found @ 4:30pm - Family Promise 6pm - AA Meeting - 12	5 12pm - Lost & Found @ 1pm - Book club @ Allison 1pm - St. Luke's Women's 3:45pm - Girl Scout 2158 6pm - Men's Group @	6 12pm - Lost & Found @ 12pm - Noonday 1pm - Book Study @ 2:15pm - Praise Dance @ 4pm - Book Study @ SL	7 10am - CDA Art Assoc 12pm - Family Promise @ 12pm - Lost & Found @ 6:45pm - NA Meeting - 9:30pm - Serious about	8 11am - Parish Hall 12pm - Lost & Found @ 6:30pm - SA 12 step 9:30pm - Serious about	9 6:45am - St Luke's 9am - SA 12 Step group 12pm - Lost & Found 9:30pm - Serious about
10 8am - HE I @ St. Luke's 10am - HELL service @ SL 1pm - AA Lost & Found @ 6:30pm - NA - Hope 9:30pm - Serious about	11 9:30am - Pr Shawl 10am - Family Promise @ 12pm - Lost & Found @ 4:30pm - Family Promise 6pm - AA Meeting - 12	12 11am - PEO @ Parish Hall 12pm - Lost & Found @ 1pm - Book club @ Allison 3:45pm - Girl Scout 2158 9:30pm - Serious about	13 11am - Pastoral Care @ 12pm - Lost & Found @ 12pm - Noonday 1pm - Book Study @ 2:15pm - Praise Dance @	14 10am - CDA Art Assoc 10:30am - CDA Art 12pm - Lost & Found @ 6:45pm - NA Meeting - 9:30pm - Serious about	15 12pm - Lost & Found @ 6:30pm - SA 12 step 9:30pm - Serious about	16 6:45am - St Luke's 9am - Church Christmas 9am - SA 12 Step group 12pm - Lost & Found 9:30pm - Serious about
17 8am - HE I @ St. Luke's 10am - HELL service @ SL 1pm - AA Lost & Found @ 6:30pm - NA - Hope 9:30pm - Serious about	18 9:30am - Pr Shawl 10am - Family Promise @ 12pm - Lost & Found @ 4:30pm - Family Promise 5:30pm - FPNI Board	19 12pm - Lost & Found @ 1pm - Book club @ Allison 3:30pm - Family Promise 3:45pm - Girl Scout 2158 5:30pm - Contemplative	20 12pm - Lost & Found @ 12pm - Noonday 1pm - Book Study @ 2:15pm - Praise Dance @ 4pm - Book Study @ SL	21 10am - CDA Art Assoc 11am - DOK meeting @ 12pm - Lost & Found @ 5pm - Vestry meeting @ 6pm - CDA Art	22 2:30pm - Trinity Group SVDP Christmas party @ Parish 12pm - Lost & Found @ 6:30pm - SA 12 step 9:30pm - Serious about	23 6:45am - St Luke's 9am - SA 12 Step group 12pm - Lost & Found 9:30pm - Serious about
24 8am - HE I @ St. Luke's 10am - HELL service @ SL 1pm - AA Lost & Found @ 6:30pm - NA - Hope 9:30pm - Serious about	25 9:30am - Pr Shawl 10am - Family Promise @ 12pm - Lost & Found @ 4:30pm - Family Promise 6pm - AA Meeting - 12	26 11am - PEO @ Parish Hall 12pm - Lost & Found @ 1pm - Book club @ Allison 3:45pm - Girl Scout 2158 9:30pm - Serious about	27 12pm - Lost & Found @ 12pm - Noonday 1pm - Book Study @ 2:15pm - Praise Dance @ 4pm - Book Study @ St.	28 10am - CDA Art Assoc 12pm - Lost & Found @ 6:45pm - NA Meeting - 9:30pm - Serious about	29 12pm - Lost & Found @ 6:30pm - SA 12 step 9:30pm - Serious about	30 6:45am - St Luke's 9am - PFLAG board 9am - SA 12 Step group 12pm - Lost & Found 9:30pm - Serious about
31 8am - HE I @ St. Luke's 10am - HELL service @ SL 1pm - AA Lost & Found @ 6:30pm - NA - Hope	1 9:30am - Pr Shawl 10am - Family Promise @ 12pm - Lost & Found @ 4:30pm - Family Promise	2 12pm - Lost & Found @ 1pm - Book club @ Allison 1pm - St. Luke's Women's 3:45pm - Girl Scout 2158	3 12pm - Lost & Found @ 12pm - Noonday 1pm - Book Study @ 2:15pm - Praise Dance @	4 10am - CDA Art Assoc 12pm - Lost & Found @ 6:45pm - NA Meeting - 9:30pm - Serious about	5 11am - Parish Hall 12pm - Lost & Found @ 6:30pm - SA 12 step 9:30pm - Serious about	6 6:45am - St Luke's 9am - SA 12 Step group 12pm - Lost & Found 9:30pm - Serious about



**DECEMBER 2023**

**ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

501 Wallace Ave.  
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814

**NON-PROFIT  
U.S. Postage Paid  
PERMIT #19  
Coeur d'Alene, ID  
83814**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Rector**

The Rev. Dr. David Gortner  
*priest@stlukesca.org*

**Associate Priest for Christian Formation & Discipleship**

The Rev. Mary Ayers  
*associate@stlukesca.org*

**Deacon**

The Rev. Glenda Empsall  
*deacon@stlukesca.org*

**Parish Administrator**

DeDe Pederson  
*admin@stlukesca.org*

**Organist**

Ty Peterson  
*music@stlukesca.org*

**Newsletter Editor**

Kate Dolan  
*kfd819@gmail.com*

**Vestry**

**Class of 2024**

Kristin Keyes  
Lisa Nunlist  
Terri Radford  
Marcia Siring

**Class of 2025**

Ian Hicks  
Michelle Johnson  
Annette Knapp

**Class of 2026**

Jeff Hennig  
Andrea Partington

Dave Phifer	Treasurer
Kristin Keyes	Senior Warden
Ian Hicks	Junior Warden
Farley Green	Clerk

**Office Hours**

Tuesday-Friday 9 a.m.– 1 p.m.

**Sunday Service Times—Holy Eucharist**

Holy Eucharist Rite I	8 a.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite II & Children's Chapel	10 a.m.

**10 a.m. services will also be live-streamed online via the Zoom platform and on Facebook Live.**

501 Wallace Avenue, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814—208-664-5533—[www.stlukesca.org](http://www.stlukesca.org)  
Email: [stlukesca@gmail.com](mailto:stlukesca@gmail.com)

# REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO A BOX.  
ON CHRISTMAS EVE DONATE THE CONTENTS TO A  
FOOD BANK.

- December 1 - box of cereal
- December 2 - peanut butter
- December 3 - stuffing mix
- December 4 - boxed potatoes
- December 5 - macaroni and cheese
- December 6 - canned fruit
- December 7 - canned tomatoes
- December 8 - canned tuna
- December 9 - dessert mix
- December 10 - jar of applesauce
- December 11 - canned sweet potatoes
- December 12 - cranberry sauce
- December 13 - canned beans
- December 14 - box of crackers
- December 15 - package of rice
- December 16 - package of oatmeal
- December 17 - package pasta
- December 18 - spaghetti sauce
- December 19 - chicken noodle soup
- December 20 - tomato soup
- December 21 - can corn
- December 22 - can mixed vegetables
- December 23 - can carrots
- December 24 - can green beans

PASSIONATEPENNYPINCHER.COM