



BRINGING YOU GOOD NEWS Luke 2:10

SEPTEMBER 2025

Reflections with Your Rector

It is wonderful to be back with you after our months away on sabbatical. I am so grateful for the time and opportunity to take the journey that Heather and I took. There is so much to share with you and the wider church and community. We have been deeply enriched. It will take time to share with you and the wider church and community all of what we learned, saw, heard and experienced. Starting in the next couple of weeks, we will begin week-by-week to bring you some of the images and insights from our time in countries across western Mediterranean Europe and Africa. We saw Jewish faith communities slowly reemerging after the annihilation of Jews by Nazis across Europe. We saw slow and cautious increase of Christian faith communities in Muslim lands, and slow and cautious increase of Muslim faith communities in Christian lands. We learned about the roots of the rich spiritual traditions of Kabbalah and Sufism in Jewish and Muslim faiths during the Middle Ages. We visited shared holy sites and places of deep spiritual importance to people in all three Abrahamic faiths. We met people across different countries working to recover the best times of positive interfaith cooperation and respectful coexistence.



During these months, you continued to gather and move forward as a community of faith. Thank you for the ways you held together, worked together, prayed together, and served together in this part of our world, while we were abroad. Many thanks to Revs. Holladay, David, Mary, and Glenda for their leadership and service during this summer. And to Ian, Dave, Michelle, Rod, Farley, Kate, Kristin, and all church members who contributed to moving forward. And to DeDe and Ty for their steady ministry in the office and in worship. I am so very, very grateful.

Here are a few tastes of our journey.

In June, we thoroughly enjoyed our time in Spain and Morocco, reconnecting with places that spoke to us on our honeymoon 26 years ago, and immersing ourselves in new places.

See Rector (continued on page 2)



COMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER'S REVERSE OFFERING WILL GO TO THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD CLOSET

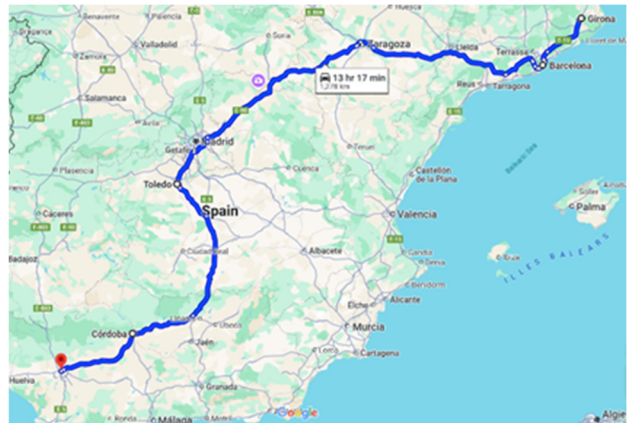
- September 2—Women's Guild, 1 p.m.
- September 6—John Albee memorial service, 11 a.m.
- September 7—Welcome Back potluck brunch, between the services
- September 12-14—Orchard Ridge musical fundraiser
- September 16—Contemplative Prayer on Zoom, 5:30 p.m.
- September 9—Men's Discussion Group, 6 p.m.
- September 10—Wednesday 4 p.m. book group resumes
- September 17—Women's Spiritual Journaling sessions begin, 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the Alison Library
- September 18—Daughters of the King, 11 a.m.; Vestry meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- September 20—Housing Resource Fair, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., McEuen Park
- September 27—Diocesan NE Regional Gathering Day, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's, Spokane
- October 4—NAMI Walk Coeur d'Alene, 9:30 a.m. to noon, McEuen Park
- October 11—Pre-Advent Retreat, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- October 17-19—Diocesan Convention, St. John's Cathedral, Spokane

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Rector (continued from page 1)

In Spain, we dove deep into historic places in the Jewish neighborhoods and Muslim-era sites in Girona, Toledo, Cordoba, and Sevilla. These places span over 1,500 years of Abrahamic religions' history. They showed us stories of cooperation and conflict, respect and prejudice, trust and suspicion – and how rulers set the stage for positive and negative relationships. The time of a more “peaceable kingdom” was during the centuries between AD 711 and 1348, when under Moorish Muslim rule there was mostly peaceful coexistence and cooperation between Muslims, Christians and Jews – although there was distinct classism, with Christians and Jews in lower classes. As Catholic Spanish rulers retook control of Spain, Jewish oppression and anti-Jewish violence increased. In 1492 and 1493, Jews and Muslims were expelled from Spain. Spain is still finding its way as a nation in affirming the presence of other faiths – including non-Catholic Christian faiths – after the deep Catholic form of Christian Nationalism of prior centuries and the manipulative use of that “Christian” nationalism by the dictator Franco. Leaders and members in the Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church shared with us the challenges of being different types of Christians in Spain.

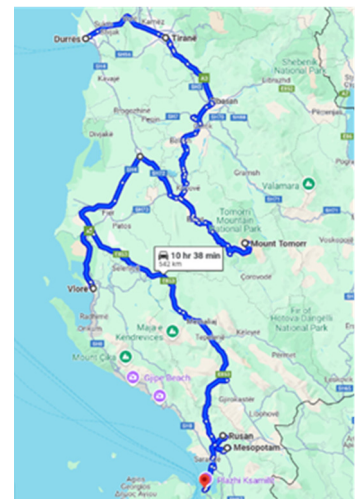


Our Moroccan journey began with time at the Gnaoua World Music Festival in Essaouira, a city on the Atlantic coast that was a special favorite of Jews when many lived in Morocco. We continued with visits to sacred sites and current faith communities in Marrakesh, and to villages where the High Atlas Foundation is guiding Muslim and Jewish people together in sustainable agriculture with mutual appreciation. In and around Fez, we toured old synagogues and mosques, visited tombs and caves held by all three faiths as holy sites of pilgrimage, and met people leading the reconstruction of a Catholic monastery that sparked profound interfaith cooperation in the 1950s through 1970s, where the prior Moroccan king in his younger years as crown prince attended a global interfaith conference and was inspired to make Morocco a nation that welcomed and affirmed diverse

religious communities. We met a Christian interfaith campus minister at an American-like national liberal arts university, saw the Islamic universities and schools founded by women over 1,100 years ago, and met a key leader of the American Language Center. In Rabat (the capital city), we met leaders of an ecumenical and interfaith theological school who are helping Christian leaders better understand Islam, and Muslim leaders better understand Christianity.

Jews were in Morocco already by the time the Roman Empire reached there, and Christians were present and active for the centuries prior to the rise of Islam and its sweep across north Africa. Over the last century, Morocco is one of the few Muslim nations with explicit laws of tolerance and respect for other religions. When the Nazis attempted to get the king to turn over Jews, he refused and responded, “We are all Moroccans here.” In recent years, there are even places where people of the three Abrahamic faiths come together for shared Iftar meals during the fast of Ramadan.

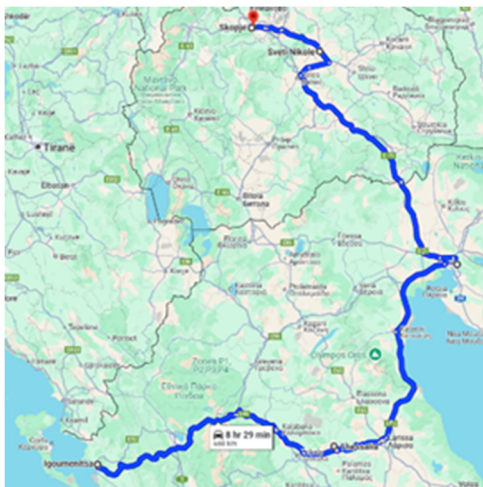
July took us to five other countries. After a week in Tunisia and Italy, we took an overnight ferry (set up like a cruise, with private cabin) from Italy to Albania. This began our journey through Albania, northern Greece, and North Macedonia. Albania is one of the countries demonstrating the strongest interfaith respect, co-existence, and collaboration. This small country, with an incredibly complicated history and a terribly repressive era of Communist rule, has been reborn as a nation with deep pride. It was long a place where Abrahamic faiths coexisted peacefully. During the Communist era, all



See *Rector* (continued on page 3)

Rector (continued from page 2)

religions' houses of worship were destroyed or claimed for nonreligious purposes – and cemeteries were destroyed to further annihilate faith-related memory. But since Albania peacefully overthrew Communist rule, religion has reemerged with strength like before. We saw amazing new Orthodox and Catholic churches and Muslim mosques and shrines. We saw shared pilgrimage sites. We met religious leaders working across faiths for interfaith partnership for the public good. Orthodox and Catholic faith run deep. The Sufi Muslim tradition also runs deep in Albania and intentionally draws together strands from different Abrahamic religions as well as more local cultural religion.



Greece was far more complicated in its history of interfaith co-existence and collaboration. Of course, there is the interplay of the rise of Christianity and decline of Greek polytheism. But there is also the relatively peaceful co-existence of Orthodox Christianity and Islam in both Greece and Turkey under the rule of the Ottoman Empire. When war erupted between these nations and brought on the demise of the Ottoman Empire, the Treaty of Lausanne enforced an agreed mutual deportation – so Turkish Orthodox Christians were forced to move to Greece, and Greek Muslims were forced to move to Turkey.

In our time on the island of Corfu and in the city of Thessaloniki, we learned that Jewish presence at one time was very strong. Thessaloniki initially drew Jews expelled from Spain, and then centuries later from eastern Europe and Russia during times of antisemitic cruelty. It became known among Jews as “the Jerusalem of the Balkans.” But Nazi incursion – and Greek cooperation with the Nazis – resulted in destruction of the Jewish neighborhoods, seizure of property, and deportation of 54,000 Jews to concentration camps (and over 1,500 from the small city of Corfu).

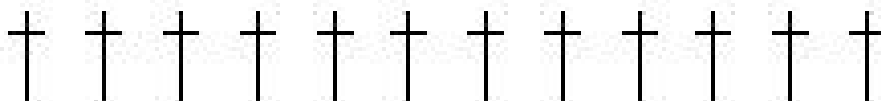
In North Macedonia, we found a spirit similar to Albania’s in commitment to peaceful coexistence of Christians and Muslims. The level of cooperation and partnership is not as strong, but there are intriguing shared sacred places, including houses of worship that have been both Muslim and Orthodox Christian in history, as well as sacred water springs. These are pilgrimage sites at different times of the year. There are important shrines to Saints Cyril and Methodius, who brought Christian faith – and an early alphabetic system for their language – to the region. And Mother Theresa is regarded with deep reverence. There is even a statue of her at the main airport.

At the end of our journey in August, our time in Austria, Germany and the Netherlands was also deeply enriching, particularly in visiting important places in Christian Reformation history and in visiting cities where we have family roots.

I hope this gives you a good sense of the breadth and depth of our journey. People were so good to us as visiting tourists, particularly when we identified ourselves as clergy who were on a journey of discovery of coexistence and cooperation of Abrahamic faiths. We were thrilled to connect with Episcopal, worldwide Anglican and other Protestant folks in these countries. We have formed interfaith and ecumenical relationships that we hope to strengthen and build more meaningful connections for the Episcopal Church and for interested American universities and faith communities. We hope to help foster stronger interfaith connection and collaboration here in this country, and particularly in our own region here. This is a deeply important way we can share the love of Christ by how we love and respect our neighbors. And, we grow in our own faith as we listen to and learn from others about their faith.

Peace,

Father David



Prayer & Worship

Birthdays & Anniversaries

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Brian Kilmer	16 Jane Feerer
2 Barbara Webb	16 Henry Lane
5 Jim Curtis	16 Heidi Stanley
5 Marty Gustafson	18 Dave Palmer
10 David Pratt	25 Barbara D. Lee
12 Jo Clifford	26 Eleanor McAlpine
15 Madeline Hennig	29 Janet Anderson
16 Jennifer Crupper	29 Jim Miller



ANNIVERSARIES

1 Karen & Bill Skelton
5 Farley & Tom Green
7 Melinda & Jeff Hennig
30 Cathy & Art Boysen

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 and Strength: John McTear, Milli Larsen, Peggy Lembeck, William Dane, Sean Whelan, Julian Wheeler, Andre Smith, Bob Gustafson, Marcia Siring, Janet Crane, Hal Worth, Ramon Byrd, Barbara Webb, Martha Vilandr , Carl Vanslyke, Ron Linderman, Jane Jackson, Robin Reyes, Henry Lane, Anne Salisbury, Mary McComb, Shawn Manuola, Martha & Bob West, Summer Taylor, Barbara Lee, Jane Gortner, Kristin Keyes, Kelly Campbell, Sergio Alvia, Barbara Campbell, Kirsten Pomerantz, Dennis Travis, Ginger & Ken Wright, Dan Ayers, April Miller, Cary Miller, Janet Anderson, Phyllis Albee, Mary Ayers, Marilyn Otto, John Empsall, Carol Owren, David Brooks, Dave Ziegler, Ted Jordan, Jill Kalberg, Jamie Ziegler, Kay Lockhart, Christopher Wigley, Mason Knapp

Memorial Service: Paul Vilandr 

Rest of the Soul: John Albee

Committal: Mary Schmidt

DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

September 7: **West Central Abbey**, Spokane

We pray for the mission and ministry of West Central Abbey, Spokane. We also give thanks for the birthday of The Rev. Jerome Bonneville (9/9).

September 14: **St. Matthew's**, Prosser

We pray for the mission and ministry of St. Matthew's, Prosser. We also give thanks for the birthdays of the Revs. Katy Shedlock (9/14) and David Hacker (9/16).

September 21: **Regional Gathering Days**

We give thanks and pray for all attending the fall gathering day in each of the four regions, and pray for effective communication and sharing of ideas.

September 28: **St. Michael's Episcopal Mission**, Yakima

We pray for this shared mutual learning community, in that place between communities, where we can truly listen to one another, face the reality of our shared history and seek a new vision of reconciliation.

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

Worldwide Anglican Church prayer cycle: https://www.anglicancommunion.org/media/497162/acp_from-aba-to-divine-hope-via-zululand-2023-to-2026_webpdf.pdf



Prayer & Worship

Weekday Worship Opportunities

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

Wednesdays

- **Noonday Intercessory Prayer** — The service, found on page 103 of the Book of Common Prayer, is offered weekly in the nave and on Zoom. A brown bag lunch and open conversation follows.
- **Praise with Movement** — Offered weekly at 2 p.m. Direct questions to Lyndi Phifer at lyndiphifer@icloud.com. All ages welcome.



<https://www.funbirmingham.org/midweek-prayer-on->

Contribute to St. Luke's Spiritual Journal!



As suggested by Rev. Mary, there is now a little brown book where individuals can journal about encountering God this summer (or any time, for that matter). Record your thoughts and experiences at the Sunday coffee hours; check with the office on other days.

Adult Christian Formation

New Learning and Growth Ideas?

We've had several good years of rich learning, study, and spiritual growth at St. Luke's. How would we like to continue growing and learning? Do you have ideas or longings for topics to explore and learn, scriptures to study, ways to grow in our relationships with God? Please share your ideas with Fr. David! Watch the Friday Memo email for details and updates about formation offerings.



Sources for Spiritual Growth and Reflection

In our quest to grow our spiritual lives, we often look to resources that can inspire and invite us into a deeper relationship with God. Not surprisingly, many of these resources are available online at various websites, in apps for our phones and iPads, through printed books, and more.

Just like anything at which we want to get better, such as playing a musical instrument or running a race, it takes practice and dedication. It's the same with our relationship with God. We need to set time aside most days to actively participate in a spiritual practice so we can experience God. That can be through scripture reading and reflection, prayer, meditation, reading, spiritual formation, the Daily Offices in our Book of Common Prayer, and participating in a variety of spiritual practices.

As part of our Building Bridges: Healing Divides work as a congregation, we want to invite you into that deeper relationship with God. Over the next months, we will be offering information on a number of these resources that have helped each of us on the BB: HD team in our journey to grow more deeply in our faith. Each month, we'll offer ideas in our weekly eNews and in our newsletter. They are divided into sections for Daily Office/Devotions, Scripture Reading, Prayer and Meditation, Spiritual Formation, and Spiritual Practices/Disciplines.

Adult Christian Formation

Spiritual Growth (continued from page 5)

We invite you to explore these options as they are offered, give them a try, and see if one of these might be just what you need to build space where most days you can experience some time with God.

Also, please share what you may be using. Send Kristin Keyes (kkeyes@gmail.com) a note with the tools you use, and we'll add to our growing list.

For September, consider visiting these sites:

- mydailyoffice.org – a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia. This site provides text and audio resources for Morning Prayer, Noon Prayer, Evening Prayer and Compline.
- Living the Lectionary by Philip Heinze – livingthelectionary.blogspot.com – a daily devotion on the lessons from the revised common lectionary.
- Sacred Space – A site run by Irish Jesuits. It offers a daily prayer practice around a Gospel reading. sacredspace.ie
- Richard Rohr Daily Meditations – from the Center for Action and Contemplation -- an educational nonprofit introducing seekers to the contemplative Christian path of transformation. Sign up for daily meditations on the site at <https://cac.org/>

Your Building Bridges: Healing Divides Team

Women's Spiritual Journaling Group

Recently during a Sunday service, The Rev. Mary Ayers said to us, "Where have you encountered God this summer? Let's start a church-wide spiritual journey journal! Leave an entry in the brown journal book and share how you are journeying and finding God right here."

Concurrently, personal journaling can be undeniably uplifting, especially together as a group. We will be starting a women's spiritual journaling group with the focus on journaling as a spiritual practice, along with reading and discussion of sacred texts, wisdom literature, and a wee bit of evocative poetry. We will meet in the Alison Library on Wednesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. beginning September 17 through October 29. Sign up on our website or on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.



For details contact Kim Morgan at kimberlyemorgan@gmail.com.

Learning Opportunities

Two New Diocesan Classes on Thursdays This Fall

This fall the Diocese will offer two new 6-part classes on Zoom that will take place on alternating Thursday evenings.

Belief and Other Problems – A Deep Dive on the Nicene Creed

September 4, September 18, October 2, October 23, November 6, & November 20, 7-8:30 p.m. on Zoom

In honor of the 1700th anniversary of the Nicene Creed, this class offers a rich opportunity to explore one of Christianity's most enduring statements of faith. Belief and Other Problems will delve into the creed's historical origins, theological context, and the ways it continues to shape Christian belief today. Register at <https://theepiscopaldioceseofspokane.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3071190>.

See Diocesan classes (continued on page 7)

Learning Opportunities

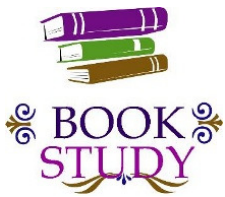
Diocesan classes (continued from page 6)

Jesus's Bible – A Survey of the Old Testament

September 11, September 25, October 9, October 30, November 13, & December 4, 7-8:30 p.m. on Zoom

This course will provide an engaging exploration of the Hebrew Scriptures. Building on the foundation of our New Testament class last spring, it will guide students through the diverse genres of the Old Testament, introduce key insights from contemporary biblical scholarship, and invite thoughtful reflection on how Christians engage with these ancient texts. Register at <https://theepiscopaldioceseofspokane.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3071130>.

Book Studies at St. Luke's



Wednesday afternoons at 1 p.m.: The group is now reading *The Tears of Things, Prophetic Wisdom for an Age of Outrage* by Richard Rohr. Richard Rohr turns to the writings of the Jewish prophets, revealing how some of the lesser-read books of the Bible offer us a critical path forward today. All are welcome to join. Contact Lyndi Phifer (lyndiphifer@icloud.com) or Ern Warner (ern.m.warner@gmail.com) for more information.

Wednesday afternoons at 4 p.m.: The group will resume weekly meetings on September. Watch the Friday Memo email for the new book title. Contact Lisa Nunlist (208-640-9110 or lisanunlist@gmail.com) 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.

Life Together

Welcome to New Choir Director Eric Betz!

St. Luke's wishes a warm welcome to our new Choir Director, Mr. Eric Betz! Eric has sung for several years with St. John's Cathedral Choir as a choral scholar, prior to his recent work completing a Master's in choral conducting. Eric has returned to the greater Spokane area and is beginning to establish his place here in the music world of the region.

We are thrilled to have him join our ministry team at St. Luke's! Eric will be easing in to directing the choir in the next few weeks, as he settles in and Fr. David hands over choir leadership to Eric. If you sing and want to join the choir, now is a great time!



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.

DEADLINES: Newsletter – 10th of each month to Kate Dolan—kfd819@gmail.com; **Sunday bulletin & Friday Memo** – Tuesdays by noon to the parish office—office@stlukesca.org.

Life Together

Building Bridges: Healing Divides Fall Update



As mentioned in previous articles, our second-year participation in the Building Bridges: Healing Divides initiative will include developing a ministry experiment for our congregation to participate in this fall.

Our ministry experiment will focus on expanding our work with NIC, with the goal of coming alongside to support as we are able.

We've spent the summer gathering data on possibilities for our ministry experiment, both with interviews with various NIC folks, and asking for your input. Many thanks to all of you who participated in this data gathering exercise!

Our BB: HD team met to formulate ideas that we will explore for our ministry experiment. It's too soon yet to fully explain what we hope to do, but we can share some basic ideas.

We believe we will look to provide two hospitality events this fall. The first is a St. Luke's Oktoberfest – Celebrating and Appreciating NIC Faculty: a party for us, and a chance to show our appreciation to NIC faculty. The second would be an expanded "Lessons and Carols" offered at Fort Sherman Chapel in December before finals and winter break. More details to come as we gather a little more information about each of these options.

We are also looking into more ways to support the Center for New Directions. CND is designed to assist single parents and displaced homemakers with community resources and exploration of career and educational paths. We don't know exactly what this will look like just yet, but will share more as we are able.

The BB: HD team is continuing to collect information and fine tune our ideas. We will be attending a bigger cohort meeting with other congregational teams on the second weekend of September where we can more fully explore these ideas. We should be able to provide a lot more information after that gathering.

If you have any questions about our BB: HD initiative, please reach out to any one of us on the team.

Kristin Keyes, Lyndi Phifer, Dave Phifer, Rev. David Owren, and Fr. David

Keep Up Your Pledge with a Recurring Gift



Have you ever considered setting up your pledge as a (very convenient) recurring event? You can choose monthly, bi-monthly or weekly payments. Recurring payments can be arranged through your own bank, the donation page on the St. Luke's website (<https://www.stlukescca.org/bringing-our-gifts/>) or by calling the office. Please prayerfully consider doing this!

Women's Guild Meets Tuesday, September 2

Women's Guild will resume its regular monthly meetings on Tuesday, September 2, at 1 p.m. in the Parish Hall. We will discuss working with NIC's Center for New Directions, as well as the Welcome Back brunch, other upcoming events, and planning for the year.

All ladies of St. Luke's are welcome to attend Guild meetings. If you have questions or need a ride, please contact Andrea Partington (208-755-1829).

Life Together

Welcome Back Potluck: Sunday, September 7, Between the Services

Schools will be back in session next week, folks will be back from summer vacations, and church organizations will be up and running again soon. Let's plan to celebrate on Sunday, September 7! Bring something to share (doesn't have to strictly be a breakfast item) and join your fellow St. Luke's folks between the services from 8:45 to 9:45 a.m. Sponsored by the Welcoming Committee.



Men's Discussion Group Meets Tuesday, September 9



The Men's Discussion Group will resume its regular monthly meetings on Tuesday, September 9, at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Our guiding thought is "Be still and know that I am God." Please join us for a relaxing conversation and enjoy a light supper. Please RSVP to Ian Hicks for catering purposes.

Contact Dave Phifer (425-387-2882 or n801dp@gmail.com) or Ian Hicks (714-742-3412 or ianhicks@icloud.com) with any questions.

Diocesan Northeast Regional Gathering Day, Saturday, September 27 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's, Spokane

The Diocesan Northeast Regional Gathering Day will be held on Saturday, September 27, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at St. Stephen's, 5720 S. Perry St. on Spokane's South Hill. Lunch will be provided.

All are invited to come share in a day of connection, conversation and community. Gatherings are focused on coming together as a learning community for fellowship, inspiration and conversation about the work of the church. Those in leadership positions are specially encouraged to participate. Convention delegates and alternates are required to attend. Watch for more information to come from the Diocese and in the weekly Friday Memo email.

Pre-Advent Retreat | Embracing the Four Themes of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love Saturday, October 11, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. (lunch provided)

Our retreat this year helps us prepare, reflect and celebrate the birth of Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior, during the Christmas season. Our objective is to consider "Where have you encountered God in your spiritual journey?" While we have activities throughout the day, our primary aim will be to focus on *Beholding the light that is Christ Jesus, we become the light of the world.*

Activities are meant for you to explore how you are journeying and finding God right here while embracing hope, peace, joy and love. These include:

- Engaging in small group activities along with story sharing.
- Learning *how* to behold Christ's light while becoming the light of the world.
- Spiritual journaling with reflection-into action tasks.
- Walking the labyrinth with Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.
- Making an Advent wreath.

The themes of Advent offer us a period of anticipation leading to spiritual renewal, where believers prepare their hearts for the coming of the Savior, reflect on the profound meaning of His birth, and celebrate the joy and hope it brings! Please sign up either on our website or on the forms on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Please also indicate if you can help out with some of the food to feed us all for lunch. We are planning soup, salad, rolls and butter and snacks.

Life Together

61st Annual Diocesan Convention, Friday 2 p.m.—Sunday noon, October 17-19 at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Spokane



CALLED AND
COMPELLED
BY LOVE
OCT. 17TH - 19TH
ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL
SPOKANE, WA
EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE OF
SPOKANE

The 61st Annual Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane will take place from Friday, October 17, at 2 p.m. through noon on Sunday, October 19, at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in Spokane.

The Convention speaker will be The Rev. Canon Anita Braden, who is currently serving as the Canon to the Ordinary and the Chief of Staff for the Diocese of Arizona. Her key areas of responsibility are the deployment of priests, congregational development, congregational conflict management, Title IV Officer, oversight of mutual ministry reviews, vestry enhancement

workshops, and Chief of Staff. In addition, Canon Braden serves on the General Convention Standing Commission for Structure, Governance, Constitution and Canons as the Vice Chair.

For more information about convention, and to register, please visit <https://theepiscopaldioceseofspokane.churchcenter.com/login?return=https://theepiscopaldioceseofspokane.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2980479/reservations/new>

“Just Because It’s Summer” Parish Picnic Was Enjoyed by All

The “Just Because It’s Summer” church picnic on Saturday, July 26, was attended by almost 50 folks, all simply relaxing. Great camaraderie and discussions abounded. There was some leftover food that went to Fr. Bill’s Kitchen at St. Vincent de Paul to help feed the homeless and needy. Donations in the amount of \$130 were collected for church maintenance.

Many thanks to all who put the event together and thank you to all who attended and enjoyed food together.

Ian Hicks, Senior Warden



If you are the last person in the building, ***PLEASE*** lock doors, turn lights off, set alarm.



Life Together

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

There are new coffee hour signup sheets on the bulletin board with only a couple weeks to fill for the 10 a.m. service coffee hour in September.

Hosting coffee hour is easy to do and is as simple as bringing some treats to enjoy with coffee. If you have any questions, contact Marcia Siring (360-929-1515).



Engaging Community

Reverse Offering



June's reverse offering went to Spirit Valley Food Bank. They were very appreciative of our offerings as they are now serving twice the number of families as they have served previously.

July's offering went to the ABC Food Bank in Athol. August's offering will go to Rathdrum Food Bank and September's will go to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Closet.

Please take a slip of paper from the little basket at offering time to see what specific items are most needed for our smaller local food banks. We generally collect non-perishable foods, basic hygiene supplies, laundry detergent, and pet food. Church members deliver the food at the end of the month. If you have questions or would like to help with delivery, contact Barbara Webb (208-651-2405).

School Supply Drive a Huge Success!

This year's school supply drive has been hugely successful, thanks to both our parishioners and the people from the Coeur d'Alene Rotary Club who decided to join us in this fundraiser. A large amount of supplies have gone up to the Spirit Valley area, where they will be distributed from Spirit Valley Food Bank, which is also one of the places where our reverse offering goes three times a year, and they are so appreciative of all that we do for them. Check out the thank you card they recently sent us on the outreach bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

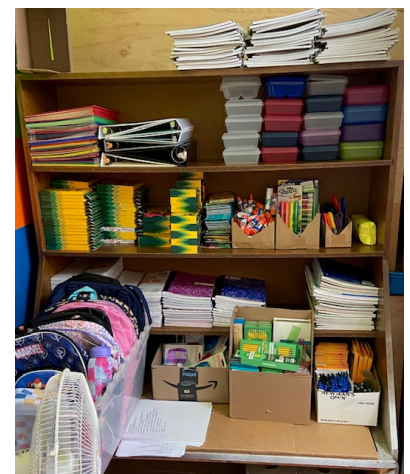
In addition, we have supplied three Family Promise elementary school children with all of their school supplies. Finally, we will be able to give money to the St. Vincent de Paul ICARE program, which is a non-profit, child abuse prevention agency serving Kootenai, Shoshone and Bonner Counties that helps single moms in need.

The school supply drive will continue through the end of September. After that, the red box in the Parish Hall lobby will go back to being used to collect home supplies for refugees arriving in Spokane.

Barbara Webb

Left: Parishioner Barbara Webb (left) and a volunteer from Spirit Valley Food Bank.

Right: Food bank shelves stocked with school supplies.



Engaging Community

Suspension of Federal Grant Funding for Episcopal Migration Ministries and Other Refugee Resettlement Organizations



On January 24, the Trump administration suspended federal grant funding for refugee resettlement programs, including Episcopal Migration Ministries. Since 1988, EMM has resettled more than 100,000 individuals to communities across the United States. In addition to its long-standing work in refugee resettlement ministry, EMM is The Episcopal Church's convening place for collaboration, education, and information-sharing on migration. Learn more about EMM at <https://episcopalmigrationministries.org/>.

The following websites provide information about the actions against immigrants and refugees, how to donate to organizations dedicated to refugee resettlement, and where to write your congressional leaders.

Episcopal News Service: <https://episcopalnewsservice.org/2025/01/31/episcopal-migration-ministries-to-end-resettlement-work-lay-off-22-after-trump-halts-refugee-program/>

World Relief — Spokane: <https://worldrelief.org/spokane/>

Thrive International: <https://thriveint.org/>

Church World Service: <https://cwsglobal.org/take-action/action-alerts/>

Idaho Congressional Delegation: <https://legislature.idaho.gov/legislators/congressional-delegation/>

Update on Fundraiser for New Bus for Orchard Ridge

St. Luke's helped found Orchard Ridge Senior Living and has partnered with them for many years in providing a faith-based loving home for older adults



Back in April of this year they initiated a campaign seeking donations to help fund the purchase of a 14-passenger wheelchair-accessible bus. This bus will greatly enhance the quality of life for their residents by providing them with safe and reliable transportation to medical appointments, shopping centers and social events. Many residents rely on wheelchairs or walkers for mobility, and having a specialized bus will ensure they can travel comfortably and with dignity.

St. Luke's set an initial goal of \$1,500 to support this campaign. As of this last week, St. Luke's has donated \$2,785 towards the bus. Orchard Ridge is currently at a total of \$69,875 toward the purchase of the bus, which they estimate will cost approximately \$95,000.

The generosity of the members of St. Luke's never ceases to amaze me. As your representative members on the Board of Orchard Ridge, Mark Wallace and I want to thank everyone for their support of this important campaign.

Gayne Clifford
Orchard Ridge Board Member

Diocesan Prayer for 2025

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.

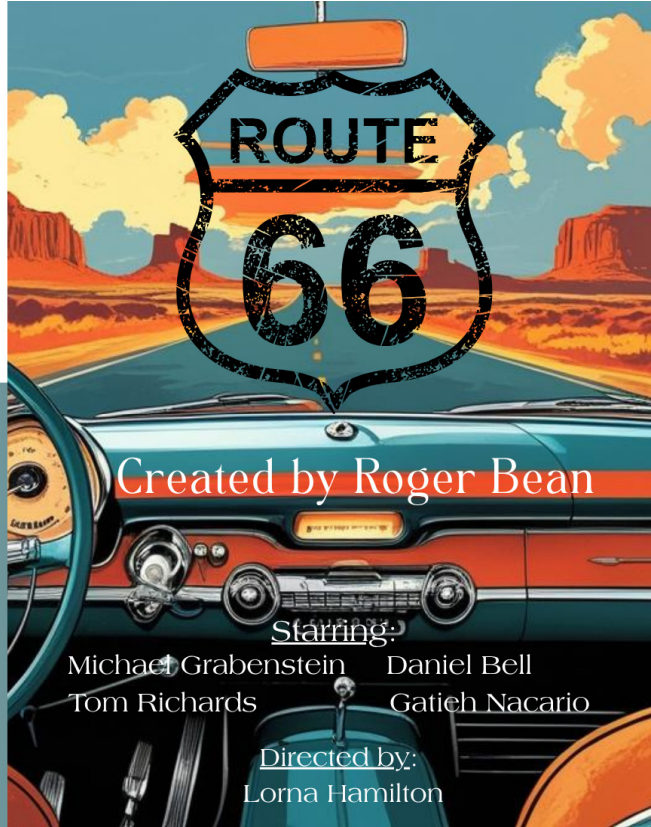
Engaging Community



Presents:

A fundraiser benefiting Orchard Ridge's Resident Relief Fund

Route 66 is high-octane fun! Beginning with the sounds of 1950s Chicago and traveling along the 'Main Street of America' to the California coast with the surf music of the 1960s, this exciting musical revue features 34 of the greatest 'Rock 'n' Road' hits of the 20th century.



SEPT. 12TH
 @ 7:30PM
 SEPT. 13TH &
 14TH @ 2PM

Kroc Center

For Tickets Visit:
www.kroccda.org
 (208) 261-2388

\$30/Ticket

Fourth Annual Housing Resource Fair, Saturday, September 20, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Mc Euen Park

Save the Date
The 4th Annual Housing Resource Fair

Saturday, Sept 20th
 McEuen Park
 9:00 - 2:00

RSVP: donna@stvincentdepaulcda.org

This free event connects community members with resources to help with housing issues such as deposits, rents and utilities. Meet with representatives of local agencies that provide housing and food assistance, medical care, mental health and recovery resources, disability advocacy and support, and more. Enjoy a day of information, food, games, free haircuts, medical screenings and connection.

For more information or to RSVP for this event, contact Donna Brundage at donna@stvincentdepaulcda.org.

Second Annual NAMI Walk Coeur d'Alene, Saturday, October 4, 9:30 a.m. to noon at Mc Euen Park

The Second Annual NAMI Walk will take place on Saturday, October 4, at Mc Euen Park. This event is a major fundraiser for NAMI Coeur d'Alene, which provides support, education, advocacy and awareness for people living with mental illness and their families, friends and loved ones. Fr. David and parishioner Kate Dolan are both board members of NAMI Coeur d'Alene.

You can support the NAMI Walk by registering to participate at <https://www.namiwalks.org/cda>. Or you can make a donation to Kate Dolan's walk at <https://www.namiwalks.org/participants/Kate-Dolan-2025>. Kate has a fundraising goal of \$1,000 for her walk.





SEPTEMBER 2025

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

501 Wallace Ave.
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814
208-664-5533
office@stlukesca.org
www.stlukesca.org

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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
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Organist

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Newsletter Editor

Kate Dolan
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Vestry

Class of 2026

Jeff Hennig
Ian Hicks
Michelle Johnson
Andrea Partington

Class of 2027

Janet Anderson
Jean Imperatrice
Rod Kalberg
Christopher Wigley

Class of 2028

Rachel Karns
Bill Kral
Lauren McCroskey

Dave Phifer

Ian Hicks

Michelle Johnson & Rod Kalberg

Farley Green

Treasurer

Senior Warden

Junior Wardens

Clerk

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.– 4 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.