

*Sharing, Celebrating, and Embodying
Christ's Overflowing, Unconditional Love*

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

2025

Annual Report



Annual Meeting

February 8, 2026

501 E. Wallace Ave., Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814

208.664.5533 www.stlukesca.org

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Our vision is to share, celebrate, and embody Jesus Christ's overflowing, unconditional love.

*Our mission is to cultivate life-giving relationships in Christ with all,
through deliberate discipleship, courageous conversations, purposeful partnerships,
and authentic action across North Idaho.*

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Rector's 2025 Review

The Rev. Dr. David Gortner 510-734-1066

Rector's 2025 Review

...Bring good news to the poor... Proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind...

Let the oppressed go free... Proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

(from Jesus' declaration of purpose in the synagogue, Luke 4:18-19)

What a remarkable year it has been at St. Luke's! I have been blessed to be part of this faith community serving and guiding as your priest for over seven years. I am incredibly thankful for your teamwork and shared leadership this year that allowed me to go with my wife on our stirring sabbatical journey last summer.

For our journey, you sent me with a notebook filled with your loving prayers and wishes for us. While we were away, you began a notebook sharing stories of God's presence in your lives – and you continued to fill this notebook after I returned. These stories offered glimpses of ordinary and extraordinary ways God has come to you, in times of pain and grief, the joy and comfort of companions, the wonder of creation, the love of community. I am so grateful to God for your faith and openness to the Holy Spirit's movement in your lives.

Think about what we have done together in 2025. I hope that last year you experienced the energy and joy of connecting with each other as follow the way of Christ Jesus. I hope experience God's presence as we pray, worship, learn, and serve together. For those who have not been here in a while, I invite you to return to find the refreshment and joy here that you seek, and re-engage your faith journey with us as your companions.

This annual report provides a picture of our ministry and mission as a church. Here are some 2025 highlights.

Community Engagement & Outreach

- We supported refugees and immigrants in Spokane
- We supported single parents in need and families without homes
- We began giving more to organizations helping people here and around the world
- We gave thousands of dollars' worth in food and personal care to area food banks
- We continued and expanded our dispersed public ministry in different organizations and networks across this region, and we welcomed wider community groups into use of our facilities

Spiritual Nurture & Growth

- We provided each other spiritual enrichment and growth in bible and books studies, prayer gatherings, and discussion groups
- We steadily maintained our Children's Chapel even when uncertain about staffing and attendance
- We launched a new gathering for young adults (Room 4U)
- We added many to our Daughters of the King and men's discussion group
- We continued ministries of prayer, pastoral care, and provision for needs

Heathy and Caring Relationship with North Idaho College (NIC)

- We strengthened supportive relationships with NIC and specific departments
- We offered events showering NIC with appreciation and spiritual encouragement

Care of Our Facilities and Heritage

- We refreshed and significantly rearranged the chancel area in our nave
- We received recognition as a historic site
- We began to develop plans for improvement of our entry and courtyard areas
- We won a grant to begin removal of aluminum siding and restoration of our historic siding
- We began an ambitious process of gathering and writing St. Luke's history

Worship

- We were blessed by the many preachers and celebrants in our congregation during the summer
- We strengthened our music ministry, including welcoming of Eric Betz as director of choirs

Care of our Financial Health

- We wrote and received grants to support our external restoration work and our NIC outreach
- We strengthened pledges for continuing solid ministry together in 2026
- We supported members and others in the wider community facing financial needs
- We gave toward special projects for ministry and facility improvement
- We sustained regular giving to the church for its day-to-day ministry and mission

Together, St. Luke's did all of this even while I was abroad with Heather for nearly three months, and even while we waited with hope for Rev. Mary Ayers' ability to return to work with us and eventually needed to say farewell to her. All year, people continued to keep us going steadily with day-to-day and week-to-week help: finances and payments, building upkeep, kitchen and bathroom supplies, prep and clean-up for Sundays, maintaining walkways and gardens, welcoming people, making pastoral visits to people not able to attend, watching our budget and investments, bringing together people who help lead our worship service, caring for our gardens and landscape, distributing food and knitting prayer shawls, and offering any helping hand.

Our Vestry observed how St. Luke's grew this year in "willing hands and hearts," people stepping forward eagerly to help and to share in leading, easy collaboration between groups, more warmth and intention in welcoming and connecting people, and an increasingly relaxed atmosphere with humor and ease if there are mistakes and with a sense of open space where people feel they can contribute and participate as they wish.

St. Luke's continues to be a healthy congregation. We are delighted to have new people join us, sad to see some leave, and eager to have more people discover the beauty of our faith and the ways we seek to follow Jesus. Looking back on our goals for 2025 (which continued from 2024), I am proud of what we have done.

As I said in prior years' reports, ***"All that we do and learn together is so that we can bring God's good news, God's freedom, God's healing and sight to people in our communities."*** Undergirding all our activity together and out in the wider community has been a commitment to deeply grounding our faith, building our strengths, mustering our courage, exploring possibilities, and testing our wings. What we began building in 2024, we continued to expand and grow in 2025. We are continuing again in 2026.

Our 2024 and 2025 goals. In 2024, Our goals focused on four key areas: *strengthening spiritual life*, *strengthening relationships inside & outside the church*, *strengthening shared leadership*, and *strengthening our buildings*. Last year, we took stock of how we did with these goals in 2024. This year, we take stock again. Here is how our Vestry and I saw our outcomes on these goals, in the table below. You will find more explanation as you read further in my review and the rest of the annual report.

Key Areas & Goals	Outcomes?	Continue?	Examples
Strengthening spiritual life			
1. Commit to growing more in faith through scripture study, prayer, conversation, and service.	Moderately Strong	Yes	Adult bible study; Book, prayer, & discussion groups. 40+ participants
2. Launch learning and service programs for children and families, beginning with Bible.	Partial, needs more attention	Yes	Confirmation for youth. Solid leadership in Children’s Chapel. Some families participating
Key Areas & Goals			
Strengthening relationships inside and outside the church			
3. Practice deeper listening and holy, courageous conversation with each other.	Strong	Yes	<i>From Many, One</i> conversations. Began <i>I Never Thought of It That Way</i> . Multiple groups, whole congregation – good energy
4. Build relationships with NIC staff, faculty, and students.	Solid start	Yes	Multiple contacts by rector. Members made contacts at picnics. More relationship builders needed.
5. Follow up directly and personally with every person who visits.	Solid start	Yes	Welcoming Committee & rector contacts by email and phone. Second-level follow-up needed.
6. Talk with and invite people who are seeking a healthy faith and recovery from difficult experiences in other churches.	Small beginnings	Yes	Members who post about St. Luke’s in social media. Members who know, talk with, and invite people. More needed.
Strengthening shared leadership			
7. Shared planning and leadership across groups for events and programs.	Strong	Yes	Snowflake Faire, Summer picnic, Events for NIC. Committees/teams
8. Develop and anchor three enduring community partnerships.	Begun, not yet complete	Yes	Connections with NIC, Chamber of Commerce, nearby churches – not yet partnerships
Strengthening our buildings			

9. Secure, beautify, and open up spaces in the church buildings.	Strong	Yes	Window coverings. Doors. Chancel area. Parish Hall basement.
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Each area above carries the stories of incredible commitment and effort by groups of people. None of this happened because of one person alone. It takes a village. We are continuing to grow in our readiness and openness to let our light shine brightly – and we are now beginning to let that light shine widely and freely.

Some Key Points from 2025

Worship. Members participate with mind, heart, and voice in our worship – and we can bring ourselves even more fully into the experience of worship. If you sing, sing even more boldly. If you don't sing, well, try it on and make a joyful noise – as St. Augustine said, "He who sings prays twice." During our prayers, lift your voices and speak aloud the names of people and places for whom you are praying. Let our cries and joys rise up to God in full voice, like incense.

We have a great array of people who share in leading and supporting our worship – and we can always welcome more. There is open opportunity for you to read aloud the scriptures, lead us in our prayers, serve at the altar, welcome and guide others in worship, prepare and clean our worship space, offer music, preach, lead Children's Chapel, and assist with our online presence.

Sunday Attendance: 8:00 a.m., steady at roughly 18-26;
10:00 a.m., steady at around 55-70. Children's Chapel, 2-7 children. Online, 5-10 more.

We continue to encourage families to return and to share in the faith formation that is best done in community together and then reinforced at home. New families who come to St. Luke's are delighted with the welcome but sometimes disheartened by the few numbers of other families present. For any age, regular attendance builds community.

We are so grateful for all adults, parents, and youth who have continued to provide a solid Children's Chapel.

We discontinued our outdoor summer services this year, but kept our outdoor pet blessing at the Lane's.

Services for special holy days and seasons throughout the year are powerful. We mark seasons and special holy times with changes in our prayers, occasional added lessons, our music, and our Eucharistic prayer. Lessons and Carols during Advent and Christmas, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Holy Week (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Great Vigil of Easter), Easter and Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, feasts of St. Francis and St. Luke, and All Saints Sunday are times of rich prayer and celebration.

We continued to offer our two weekday worship services (Tuesday evenings, Wednesday noon). They are important midweek spiritual centerpoints for the 10-12 members who attend. Join us!

Christian Formation and Discipleship. Many of our Formation and Discipleship activities in 2025 were continuations from 2024 and earlier. Our book groups on Wednesdays have continued with robust discussion of faith, spiritual growth, and public witness. Daughters of the King met regularly for deep faith enrichment and growth. The Men's Discussion Group grew in numbers and in depth of discussion. In scripture, our youth completed their 2024 journey together with me through the Bible and our Christian

history and life, in preparation for their confirmation in January 2025. They set the stage for adults to do the same journey with me in 2024-2025. It was a big commitment! But such deep enrichment comes from this. Likewise, incredible enrichment in prayer came to those attending the church's pre-Advent prayer retreat, led by four members.

Between Bible study, book studies, discussion groups, small group leadership training, and prayer exploration, more than 40 adults have benefited from St. Luke's Christian formation activities. I have encouraged all congregation members to read some specific books of the Bible this year, along with some books to strengthen our readiness and skills for courageous and caring engagement with the world around us.

Children's Chapel has been sustained well and faithfully by our adult and youth leaders. We hosted families for a "Eat and Meet" dinner, which they enjoyed. They shared the challenges of their busy lives stretched by multiple activities. They expressed deep appreciation for this dinner, suggested having more events monthly to help build and rebuild community, and liked the idea of outings to Cataldo and other places.

We have reactivated the Christian Formation Committee. If you have ideas for Bible study, book study, or other forums for learning and practicing faith in 2025, please share these with us.

Community Mission, Outreach, Engagement, and Partnership. We continued our 2024 focus, to demonstrate a public witness to the overflowing love of Christ with steady, gentle kindness and respect. While we continued involvement with a few civic events as a church and expanded our community involvement as individuals, our primary focus this year has been opening a deeper relationship with North Idaho College.

Through our "Building Bridges: Healing Divides" team's work, we developed new relationships on the NIC campus with different departments and groups. We learned more about opportunities, challenges, and on-campus networks. And we found fresh ways to partner and offer support to faculty, staff, students, and their families. We hosted three great events for NIC, here at the church and over at the Ft. Sherman Chapel. Most important, our church members entered open, welcoming, and lively conversations with NIC attendees. So, these events were all greatly appreciated by the 70 NIC folks who attended. At the end of our Ft. Sherman Chapel Christmas service, one instructor from NIC's Post Falls campus and his wife said to me, "I am so glad to find this. Thank you for doing this service. We want to come to this every year from now on."

St. Luke's was also present at Pride in the Park and the Veterans' Stand-Down Event, and active with members in the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, and PEO, as well as several organization's boards and volunteer communities. We support and assist ministries and services offered by St. Vincent de Paul, NAMI Coeur d'Alene, Family Promise of North Idaho, Orchard Ridge, NIC, food banks across North Idaho, and the ALICE network. Our members have helped launch Idaho For All, a network of concerned citizens, who led the Juneteenth peace walk in Coeur d'Alene as well as a vigil for those killed by gun violence. They are working with University of Idaho in an initiative to short-circuit radicalization of young people. We continue to strengthen outreach to key civic leaders. I pray an invocation each year at the Coeur d'Alene City Council.

This year's Snowflake Faire was again extraordinarily successful and set the standard for shared leadership and volunteer help from the entire congregation. Dinners, special coffee hours, and other events hosted by St. Luke's have become shared events, perhaps spearheaded by one group but opened up to other groups and individuals joining in the effort. These public-facing events have become efforts of the church as a whole.

Partnership between churches remains challenging. Each congregation tends to focus inward on its own life, and this "circle our wagons" mentality often increases when congregations experience diminishing attendance and membership. It will take members working together to build creative shared activities.

Our 2025 focus will be to deepen relationships and connections already underway, and to seek partnerships.

Financial Support. St. Luke's continues to show steady strength in financial support. Annual giving remains strong as the essential backbone of our everyday ministry and mission. For 2026, we have 71 pledges to will provide \$242,452 toward our annual budget.

Special donations in 2025 for projects related to our buildings and grounds have set the stage for great work in 2026. We will soon have a dedication of new arched windows for the new double doors at the entry into the nave! Watch for work to begin in 2026 on our columbarium and courtyard, our entries, and our siding.

Bequests and memorial gifts continue to grow our endowment and long-term investment funds. Beginning with seed funding raised and contributed in the 2010s, our initial investment of \$510,000 in 2021 has grown through additional bequests and memorials, and through years of market growth, to just under \$1,200,000. December 2025 was the first time we drew revenue from these funds, at our set level of 3%-3.5%. This will become our annual practice, as a way to strengthen our capacity for ministry. Endowment revenues are used to support and strengthen, but never replace, the operating expenses covered by people's annual giving.

We continue to be grateful for the faithful, careful, dedicated efforts of a long line of good treasurers, finance and endowment committee members, counters, and bookkeepers. And we remain incredibly grateful to our members present and past who have contributed so generously to the life, ministry, and mission of St. Luke's.

Facilities. Our facilities team at St. Luke's has had a full year of activity, and especially in Fall of 2025! We saw completion of installation of stronger safety doors on all exterior entrances and exits.

All of these have been completed professionally and with great care. We have a remarkable team of church members who moved into action quickly when needed, and who worked steadily to develop and sustain relationships with contractors. We have been blessed with good, talented contractors happy to work with us.

We completed the most significant changes to the chancel area in the nave, stripping and refinishing the chancel wood floor, repositioning the choir up into the apse, moving the organ and piano, and bringing the altar down into the chancel and closer to the congregation. This work was all completed by skilled men in our congregation. The result has been beautiful and spiritually uplifting for us all.

There are additional projects completed by our church members and others, outlined further in the report. Some of these were important projects to stabilize our aging building with work on old timbers “down under” – discovered in the process of working on the chancel and assessing the building for siding work.

In 2026, we will see some exterior work that will create some temporary challenges and visual changes. These include a major project to improved our exterior courtyard and entryways, including entry steps and ramps to the nave, and attention to our sidewalks. We will also begin removal of the 60-year-old aluminum siding and restoration of the historic shiplap siding that remains in generally good condition underneath. We also aim to replace single-pane windows in the parish hall and center office building, beginning with the lower level.

Interest is growing in replacement of carpeting in all locations. This and some reworking of the kitchen are under consideration. Special additional contributions to these efforts are welcome.

Communications, Streaming Video, and Parish History. Our website has been a positive attractor and gateway to our faith community for many new people. We welcome fresh pictures to add!

We continue to advertise in the Coeur d’Alene Press and the Fig Tree. Our members contribute to regular updates for our webpage and Facebook page, write and edit weekly e-news and monthly newsletters, work with me on advertisements and news releases, and assemble and prepare monthly newsletter mailings.

The AudioVisual Team for Sunday mornings is now stationed present in the nave (in the back) rather than in an office. The team has slogged through significant challenges with our camera and sound system. Most problems have now been resolved. But, on deck this year, we will be seeking bids for a new sound system that provides easier access through a simple soundboard or computer interface, and for a better camera system.

What’s Ahead in 2026.

There are real, disturbing, deep challenges in the world around us. We face incredible upheaval in our nation and continuing disturbance and disruption across our region. We face a calling to stand firm and clear in our commitment to the care of all people. 2026 has already brought us face-to-face with the need to prepare ourselves for ministries of care and protection, and to seek partners for this work for “such a time as this.”

But, even as we face into uncertain winds of the future (and when are they ever not uncertain?) we continue to keep our vision and mission before us – sharing, celebrating, and showing the unconditional love of Jesus, and building relationships in Christ through *deliberate discipleship, courageous conversation, purposeful partnerships, and authentic action*. These continue to shape and guide all that we do.

Like in 2025, in 2026 we will “stay the course.” We will also deepen and focus our work in our continuing goals. We will especially attend to strengthening opportunities and involvement of our families and children, and build our inter-generational relationships. We will continue growing in our relationship with Jesus Christ. We will anchor intentionally strong partnerships in the wider community. And we will build

and put into practice our capacities for courageous and caring conversations – especially in this time of increasing turmoil.

For this year, then, together we will—

Strengthening spiritual life

1. Continue growth in faith through shared scripture study, prayer, conversation, and service.
2. Launch community-building and learning programs for children and families.

Strengthening relationships inside and outside the church

3. Practice the arts of holy, courageous conversation with each other.
4. Strengthen relationships and build events with NIC staff, faculty, and students.
5. Follow up directly and personally with every person who visits.
6. Invite and connect people seeking a healthy faith and recovery from difficult church experiences.
7. Use what we learn with NIC to develop and anchor three enduring community partnerships.

Strengthening shared leadership

8. Continue shared planning and leadership for all events and programs.
9. Restart our central committees (Formation, Facilities, Finance, Worship, Community Engagement).

Strengthening our buildings

10. Secure, beautify, and open up spaces in the church buildings.

This is our shared work, together, as the Body of Christ Jesus. We are the church together. When we build our capacities and habits, and when we ground ourselves deeply in our faith and in following the way of Jesus, we become more adept in engaging people around us in holy, courageous, caring conversation.

May the Light of Christ Jesus our Savior and Lover of all humankind dawn brightly in this region, through us.

Fr. David Gortner, Rector

Deacon's Report

Glenda Empsall deacon@stlukesca.org

For the last several years I have begun my Deacon's Annual Report with a list of diaconal duties from the Book of Common Prayer (BCP pg. 543):

- Under direction from the Bishop, serve all people, particularly the poor, weak, sick, and the lonely;
- Study the Holy Scriptures, to seek nourishment from them, and model your life upon them;
- Make Christ's redemptive love for all people known, by your word and example, to those among whom you live, and work, and worship;
- Interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world;
- Assist the bishop and priests in public worship and the ministration of God's Word and Sacraments;
- Other duties as assigned.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Deacon's Discretionary Fund in 2025. Your gifts helped individuals and single-parent families have safe shelter, eat nourishing food, get to jobs and other places.

A generous designated donation sent four youngsters to Camp Cross on scholarships. Although I am no longer on the Camp Cross Resource Team, I know they each “had a blast” at camp, made new friends, and reconnected with friends from previous years, and learned more about following the way of Jesus.

I am grateful to the Bishop of the Diocese of Arizona for granting me a license to serve as a Deacon when I am in AZ. St. Alban’s Episcopal Church in Tucson called a new Rector last year and there are many exciting changes taking place! There are three Deacons to share Sunday and weekday service duties.

I miss being with you at St. Luke’s, but I continue to support your mission and ministries, holding you in my prayers. Let us always be praising God, not only with our lips, but in how we live: choosing Love, doing Justice, embracing Hope. May God’s blessings be with you as you serve in the larger Coeur d’ Alene community. As the heart, eyes, hands, and feet of Jesus in the world, YOU are the ones who make good things happen! I’m looking forward to being home with you “soon.”

Peace be with you,
Glenda Empsall

Vestry

Sr. Warden Report

Ian Hicks 714-742-3349

Doris Akers composed her masterpiece of music and lyrics which epitomize us here at St. Luke’s:

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

We are the St. Luke’s Coeur d’Alene family. Our primary mission is to lift our hearts in praise to our Lord in this place and to feel how much it revives us.

Of course, being family comes with copious amounts of good. As with any family, we have our moments of disagreement. When facing challenges, through prayer and honest dialogue, resolutions were achieved. Yes, we smile a lot, we worship and we sing, we pray, we discuss, we support each other, reach out in our community, welcome others. Are we ever busy!

Fr. David and Heather went on sabbatical this past year. The strength of St. Luke’s blossomed as everyone supported each other along with resident and attendant clergy. The increased depth and richness of Fr. David’s sermons since sabbatical increases the dimension and understanding of our world of faith.

Thank you, vestry, for being willing to prayerfully consider business issues and challenges, enabling us all to enjoy our life together in the community, time and place.

Personally, it has been exciting and a time of growth. Involvement with the Men’s Discussion group with increasing camaraderie, dialogue and humor. Add in the evolving teamwork and friendships as folk came together in the renovation of our chancel. The laughter and banter as we dealt with maintenance surprises

and the effort we went to ensuring the repairs are done correctly. Add to all this I'm so deeply appreciative of the connections with so many of you as we worked on both serious issues and more lighthearted events. Our first Oktoberfest was simply a fun time for all, and no matter what people might think, many have a greater singing ability than they may be willing to admit! Looking forwards, there's a superbly enjoyable positive attitude and can do spirit as we move forwards with making the columbarium area a place for spiritual respite and our access to the buildings being brought up to code.

This past year has seen us increase the pace of our being busy. Constructively busy. Growth busy. Our activities are amazing. I refer you to relevant reports for more details.

- Welcome and ushers: Our welcoming committee present smiling faces to all as folk arrive at church. Our ushers are integral to welcoming us and newcomers to services. The warm welcome all experience at St. Luke's.
- Our wonderful Communication Team are so active behind the scenes, staying aware and keeping us informed of our parish news and events, using multiple tools available to them.
- Our Church Hospitality Events are integral to our parish for fun activities, such as Oktoberfest, Church in the Park and a Chili cooking contest.
- The Women's Guild provides so many avenues for service both in our church and in outreach.
- The Men's Spiritual Discussion Group provides a relaxing conversation forum over a meal to enjoy Spirit led camaraderie and how we grow in service within our community.
- Our choir contributes so much to the very fabric for our worship, leading us with "making a joyful noise unto the Lord!"
- We are so blessed with our leaders of readings and prayer, our acolytes, service and chalice bearers, children's chapel volunteers.
- The altar guild are the quiet unspoken heroes behind the scenes with setting up for our services and all the majesty of seasonal changes.
- Occasionally people are unable to be in church physically. Thanks to our media team, they can participate in our services in real time.
- We grow in depth of faith through the energetic actions of Christian formation, book study groups, bible study groups and praise dance.
- There is always someone ready, willing and able to reach out and comfort someone in distress through deep commitment from our pastoral care team and Eucharistic visitors, Daughters of the King and prayer shawl ministries.
- Outreach and community feature strongly with building bridges, NIC support, NAMI, Pride in the Park and many more.
- This incredible family pulls together and financially we are sound and objectively managed, led through prayer. Thank you for achieving our stewardship goals for this new fiscal year.
- Facilities: the continuous work of maintaining and improving our physical home is always lively. The chancel remodel has led to an increasingly warm feeling during services. We feel the presence of the Spirit.
 - Achieving National Heritage recognition adds another rich dimension to St. Luke's.
 - Soon positive changes will be made to our stairs and ramp to make entering our facilities so much easier.

- Our Columbarium will soon have an enhanced restful feel to it for family and friends as they offer moments of contemplation and prayer for those who have gone ahead.

May our Lord lead us in comfort and peace.

Respectfully submitted,
Ian Hicks

Jr Warden & Facilities Report

Michelle Johnson 208-651-7730 Rod Kalberg 208-946-8413

The Junior Wardens, in collaboration with the Facilities Committee and Vestry, are responsible for the care and maintenance of St. Luke's church property, including the adjacent rental property. This work is made possible through strong collaboration and the dedication of many parishioners who generously share their time and talents.

Given the age of our facilities, 2025 was another busy year with a strong focus on maintaining and improving the church building.

Routine Maintenance

Ongoing maintenance included lawn care, snow removal, garden and sprinkler upkeep, leaf cleanup, light bulb and battery replacement, air filter changes, furnace servicing, carpet cleaning, and janitorial services. Ongoing painting projects, including the final remnants of the old yellow paint in the admin area were addressed as well. These routine tasks are essential to keeping our facilities safe, functional, and welcoming.

Sanctuary Improvements

The sanctuary was the primary focus of work this year. Significant changes were made to open the front of the church and improve visibility. The altar was moved forward, prompting related adjustments including painting several areas and relocation of the sanctuary lamp, aumbry, and communion rail. Choir pews were moved behind the new altar location and the organ was moved. In addition, the front door was replaced with a more secure entry, and beautiful new stained-glass windows for the interior church doors are planned for installation in early 2026.

Online Service Streaming

To better integrate online worship with in-person services, the computer used for livestreaming was relocated to the back of the church, allowing the operator to more fully participate in worship.

Garden and Grounds

Improvements to the sprinkler system continued with support from Advanced Sprinklers. Repairs were made to sprinklers serving the parking lot and rental property and several broken sprinkler heads were repaired throughout the year.

Looking Ahead to 2026

As we look toward 2026, several major projects are planned to care for our historic church, improve accessibility, and create more welcoming spaces. A significant focus will be improvements to the courtyard and columbarium area, transforming it into a more peaceful and inviting place for prayer,

reflection, and remembrance. This work will include replacing the access ramp to meet current building codes and likely replacing the main church stairs to enhance safety and accessibility.

Exterior siding replacement will also begin, coordinated carefully with historic preservation requirements. In addition, we continue to evaluate the installation of a sprinkler-based fire suppression system, with plans to bring water service into the building during courtyard work as preparation for a future system. Closer to home, the lychgate will receive a refresh this summer to preserve and enhance this symbolic entrance to our church grounds.

We are deeply grateful to all who volunteered their time and expertise this year, especially for the many unplanned projects that arose. Their contributions allow us to care faithfully for the spaces entrusted to us. Please keep these ongoing and future projects, and all those guiding and carrying out this work, in your prayers as we support the life and mission of St. Luke's.

Yours in Service,
Michelle Johnson and Rod Kalberg

We are so grateful for the tremendous service and devotion of our vestry members, and especially Ian Hicks, Michelle Johnson, Jeff Hennig, and Andrea Partington who have completed their three-year terms. We have been in great hands with them and will be in great hands with our new and continuing vestry members.

Communications

Communications Report

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DeDe Pederson 208-664-5533 admin@stlukesda.org

Annette Knapp and Michelle Johnson on Tech

St. Luke's communication team manages the many tools we use to keep everyone informed about our congregational life together. These include our weekly Friday email, monthly newsletter, website, Facebook, advertising in The Coeur d'Alene Press and other places, and managing the technology to livestream services via Zoom and Facebook. Always fun is the Photo Gallery maintained on our website. You can review it here: <https://www.stlukesda.org/photo-gallery/>.

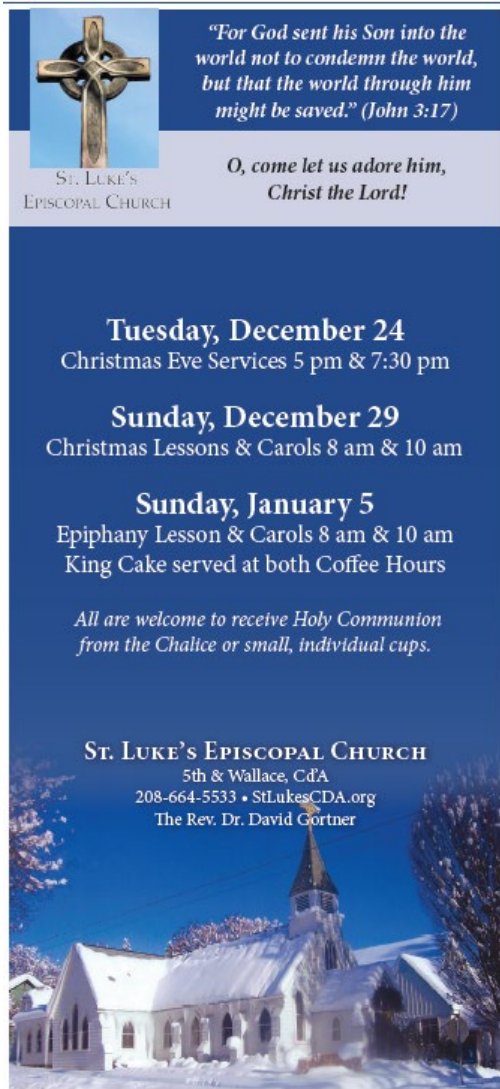


St Luke's Episcopal Church

542 followers • 32 following

Recap of 2025:

ST. LUKE'S FRIDAY MEMO St. Luke's Friday memo is a quick read to help people keep abreast of news and events and to distribute links and Sunday bulletins to those who Zoom from home. It also offers prayers for the congregation and a meditation by Fr. David. It is distributed every week via our Breeze database to members, potential members, and visitors. If you have an item of interest, please send it both to Farley Green and DeDe Pederson by the end of the day on Wednesday.



The poster features a Celtic cross in the top left corner. To its right, a quote from John 3:17 reads: "For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved." Below the quote is the prayer: "O, come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!". The church name "ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH" is printed below the cross. The main body of the poster lists services for Tuesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve Services at 5 pm and 7:30 pm), Sunday, December 29 (Christmas Lessons & Carols at 8 am and 10 am), and Sunday, January 5 (Epiphany Lesson & Carols at 8 am and 10 am, with King Cake served at both coffee hours). A note states: "All are welcome to receive Holy Communion from the Chalice or small, individual cups." At the bottom, the church's address (5th & Wallace, CdA), phone number (208-664-5533), website (StLukesCDA.org), and pastor (The Rev. Dr. David Gortner) are listed. The background of the bottom section shows a photograph of the church building in winter.

NEWSLETTER The newsletter is published 11 times per year, including a combined July/August newsletter. Editor Kate Dolan receives immeasurable assistance from Parish Administrator DeDe Pederson, assembly team chair Patti Pell, and the many parish ministry/group representatives who supply articles and updates each month. The assembly team sends 260 newsletters each month, and it is also posted to St. Luke's website. It is truly a group effort! Send questions or submissions to Kate Dolan.

FACEBOOK - 2025 Our Facebook page is administered by Kate Dolan, along with Parish Administrator DeDe Pederson. It is updated frequently with parish, diocesan, and national church news and events; plus, occasional Episcopal Church "memes" and cartoons. Suggestions for additional content are welcome!

WEBSITE Kristin Keyes and Julia Hossack work closely with Fr. David and the rest of the communications team to keep our website updated with the latest news and events. WWW.StLukesCdA.org is a vibrant resource to stay current on all the happenings of our busy parish. It attracts people, both locally and from far away, to take a closer look at us, to see who we are and how we serve Christ. It has been instrumental in inviting visitors. In 2025, the home page was updated regularly with service information, activities, and more. A new picture gallery is updated regularly with events happening both at the Church and in the community. The "inside" of the website is updated frequently with Christian formation activities, staff updates, and archives of weekly sermons.

TECHNOLOGY A core team made up of Kate Dolan, Annette Knapp, Michelle Johnson and Kristin Keyes manage live streaming of our 10 a.m. Sunday service and special services, such as Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, The Great Easter Vigil, Easter Sunday and Christmas Eve, as well as funerals and other services. The stream goes out over Zoom with the link being advertised in the Friday eNews. The Zoom gathering is then livestreamed to Facebook. Midweek services, including the bi-monthly Contemplative Prayer service and Wednesday Noonday Prayer, are available via Zoom and managed by the respective service leaders.

ADVERTISING We run a weekly advertisement for our Sunday services in The Coeur d'Alene Press. We also run large ads for Christmas and Holy Week which are in color and stand out beautifully. For the Snowflake Faire, we advertised in The Press and the Nickel's Worth, with good results.

Worship

Worship is at the heart of our Christian life together as Episcopalians. We join in prayer and adoration of God, let God's Word speak to us and shape our hearts and minds, confess our failings and sins and find forgiveness together, receive unity with Christ and one another in holy communion, and commit to giving ourselves in service and sharing God's good news with the world around us.

It takes many people to bring us together in worship that is beautiful, meaningful, warm, and welcoming. Various groups, committees, and teams make it all run smoothly.



St. Mary's Altar Guild

Debbie Lane 208-691-7428

Annette Knapp 919-593-4996

St. Mary's Altar Guild assists the clergy and prepares St. Luke's chancel and altar for all services. In addition to the regular church services, we also assist at major holy day services, baptisms, weddings and funerals. In addition to the regular church services, we also assist at baptisms, weddings and funerals. We are responsible for Holy Days floral arrangements on the altar and for Easter and Christmas flowers.

We are grateful for the many dedicated guild members who make this possible. We are a self-sustaining guild, purchasing necessary supplies (linens, candles, flowers, etc.) from donations and special offerings received from the members of the congregation. This year we purchased a new Paschal Candle, new brass Three Light Candelabras, new Crystal IHS Cruets with Silver Cross Stoppers, and new cloth materials (Corporals, Purificators and Fair Linens) for the Main Altar, the Side Altar and the Credence Table. We thank everyone for your generous gifts to our guild.



This past year, two guild members (Lynn Brooks and Virginia O'Connor) moved from the region. We are grateful for their service. Current members are Jo Clifford, Sara Curry, Kate Dolan, Glenda Empsall, Michelle Johnson, Melissa Kilmer, Annette Knapp, Kara Kral, Debbie Lane, Milli Larsen, Sue Lee, Betsy McTear, Cary Miller, Marilyn Otto, Karen Skelton and Nancy Wright. We thank them for their dedicated

service. In December Jo Clifford stepped down as Co-Directress; Annette Knapp accepted the Co-Directress position.

We continue to seek new members to serve on the Altar Guild, especially anyone attending the 8:00 a.m. service. We provide training, and service is scheduled on a rotation with flexibility to fit your schedule. If you are interested in joining Altar Guild, please do not hesitate to contact Fr. David, Debbie or Annette.

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

Music Ministry

Fr. David Gortner 510-734-1066 Eric Betz 425-736-9918 Ty Peterson 208-449-9386

We, the St. Luke's congregation, make music together. Everyone lifts their voices in prayer and praise to God. Our songs are food for our souls, and music touches and moves us in powerful ways. As a congregation, we delight in a variety of different styles and periods of music in our worship together.

This year marked an important shift in our music leadership. We have been blessed to welcome Eric Betz as our choral director. Eric joins us after singing many years at the cathedral in Spokane and then completing a masters in choral conducting. We are also blessed with Ty Peterson's continuing ministry as our organist. And we have welcomed Jeffrey Barnes as our associate organist. Fr. David has handed over choral direction to Eric but continues to accompany choral anthems as needed, alongside our organists. We are grateful for the musical leadership of this team in worship.

Our choral and instrumental possibilities took a leap forward this year! We had many new voices join the choir, especially for Advent and Christmas, and have formed deep bonds as siblings in Christ. Eric brought together more bell-ringers – old and new – to offer anthems during Christmas season. And we had our first brass quartet, accompanying Christmas carols! Individual instrumentalists (trumpet, violin, flute) offered their gifts with hymns and special music. And we were blessed with beautiful liturgical dance, led by Lyndi Phifer, that brought music and movement together in our Advent worship. The choir took an important leadership role in leading our service of Christmas Carols and Readings at Ft. Sherman Chapel for NIC folks and neighbors, as students from NIC's music department joined in accompanying the community with guitars and harp while we sang carols. The NIC music professors were delighted in this service and are eager to promote it strongly with students for next year.

Our team of musicians is prepared to continue building on our strengths. Eric continues to work with our singers to build a strong, rich choral sound and to include our choir in shared choral services, like an upcoming service featuring Vivaldi's *Gloria* at St. John's Cathedral. He welcomes any who wish to come and learn to sing! Eric also continues to welcome folks to be part of the bell choir. Ty, Jeff, and Eric also welcome any who wish to offer instrumental music or add their instrument's "voice" to our hymns – this includes our children and youth who are learning and taking music lessons. We continue our outreach and building of relationships with NIC's music department – and Eric is now teaching with NIC as an adjunct music professor. Eric, Ty, and Jeff are prepared to offer music lessons to any who are eager to learn, relearn, or refresh.

In 2026, we plan to offer additional music-rich evening services and events as gifts from St. Luke's for the wider community. This will include hymn-sings, Holden Evening Prayer, and other forms of sung evening

or night prayer services from across Christian traditions. We expect that music will continue to grow as a core ministry of St. Luke's as our musician team draws upon their relationships in this region.

Choir rehearsals: Wednesday evenings, 6:30pm – 8:00pm, and Sundays 9:15am – 9:45am.

Bell choir: Wednesday evenings, 5:00pm – 6:00pm, and Sundays before 10:00am worship, in months before Advent/Christmas and Easter.

Brass: Sundays after 10:00am worship, in months before Advent/Christmas and Easter.

Instrumentalists: Any time arranged with our music staff.

Dance: through Worship with Movement, Wednesday afternoons at 2:00pm, with seasonal offerings.

Contributions to our music fund that can feed music scholarships and honorariums for singers and instrumentalists are welcome.

Greeters

Cary Miller 208-661-6606 cjmiller19666@gmail.com

The greeters are the first face of St Luke's encountered by visitors. Their role at the 10 a.m. service is to give a warm welcome, encourage visitors to fill out contact cards, invite/escort them to coffee hour, answer questions about the church and service and, if possible, connect them with others who share their interests. Greeters also participate in following up with visitors, thanking them for joining us and offering opportunities for further conversation and participation.

In 2025, a total of 20 church members volunteered as greeters. We thank them, and invite others to join.

Acolytes

Kate Dolan 208-640-6522 kfd819@gmail.com

Acolytes assist the celebrant in leading worship. They light and extinguish candles, lead us in and out of worship with the cross and candles, help with baptisms, help prepare the table for communion, and mark important moments in our Eucharistic prayer with the Sanctus bell. Some also become servers who help distribute wine or bread during communion.

Kate Dolan, Melinda Hennig and Kristin Keyes are the three adult acolytes. We also have five active acolytes who are youth and children.

We would love to have more adult and junior acolytes! Kids aged 6 and up are welcome to become torchbearers. We provide the training. Please contact Kate Dolan to set up training time.

Lay Readers & Chalice Bearers

Lisa Nunlist 208-640-9110 lisanunlist@gmail.com

Lay readers and chalice bearers assist in leading worship, by reading scripture lessons, leading us in the Psalm of the day, and leading our weekly Prayers of the People. Lay readers may also officiate at services like Morning, Noonday, or Evening Prayer or Compline.

A team of about nineteen loyal parishioners help with our worship here at St. Luke's as lectors and/or administrators of the wine. At 8:00am, one person reads scriptures and leads prayers; at 10:00am, this role is shared by two people.

Chalice bearers, or servers, assist in setting the table for holy communion and in distributing communion. Typically, they serve the wine, either from the chalice or poured from the cruet into little individual cups. They may occasionally serve the bread.

We especially enjoy it when Junior Readers participate as readers. Thank you to them and to all our team!

We invite anyone interested in training to serve the Lord by reading lessons or administering the wine. Please contact Lisa Nunlist if interested.

Ushers

Jill Kalberg 805-551-4048, 8:00 a.m. service

Dianne Pratt 208-661-8095, 10:00 a.m. service

Ushers are an important part of welcoming people to worship, giving them what they need (bulletins) and orienting them to our worship, guiding them to seats, and introducing newcomers to people who can be helpful companions. Ushers also help direct the flow of movement during offering, communion, and exit; tally our weekly worship attendance; and keep watch for safety and special needs. Ushers arrive 20 minutes before the service and ring the church bell 15 minutes before the service and at the start of the service. They prepare the nave, and clean up and close it up after the service.

Many thanks to all members who have served as usher at either service! It is very helpful to all who attend St. Luke's. Jill Kalberg coordinates ushers for the 8:00am service. Dianne Pratt schedules ushers for the 10:00 service. Schedules are monthly. Several new members have signed up to be ushers.

Please contact Jill or Dianne if you are interested in this rewarding ministry of greeting members and guests. There is a written usher guide available in the church office.

Columbarium

Bill Skelton 208-664-0737

Gayne Clifford 208-664-4132

Jeff Wickham 208-659-8746

The Columbarium was installed at St. Luke's as a final resting place for the bodily remains of people of St. Luke's who have died, following cremation. Our courtyard around the Columbarium is a place for quiet reflection, meditation, prayer, and remembrance.

There are 100 spaces (niches). All of the fifty niches for Phase I of the Columbarium have been sold. Thirty two (32) of the niches in Phase II have not been purchased and are therefore available for purchase. Two niches of Phase II were purchased in 2025. Three committal services were held in 2025.

Please contact the church office or members of the Columbarium Committee (Bill Skelton, Gayne Clifford, or Jeff Wickham) for information about purchasing a niche.

Pastoral Care

St. Luke's has long had a natural way of offering care to each other in the church family. As we come to know each other, people reach out to one another in times of need and in times of concern for each other. Pastoral care in the congregation includes praying for and with each other, being in conversation with and support of each other, helping each other out when there is need, listening and asking after each other with love. Together, we care for each other and lift each other up in the fullness of life in the Spirit.

Lay Pastoral Caregivers, Eucharistic Visitors, and Pastoral Visitors

Jill Kalberg 805-551-4048

Glenda Empsall deacon@stlukescca.org

Dave and Lyndi Phifer 425-387-2881

Ernest Warner 208-699-2910

Pastoral Caregivers/Visitors is a team of parishioners trained to provide loving attention and spiritual care, through periodic visits, to those who are homebound, in healthcare facilities or otherwise unable to come to church. They are prepared to be listeners and to pray with anyone for healing, God's guidance, and for spiritual growth. Eucharistic Visitors have additional training and bring communion, as well as comfort and solace including to people as they journey from this life to the next.

Contact Fr. David if you are interested in serving in these ways. Fr. David or any team member may be contacted to ask for a home, hospital, hospice visit or for any other pastoral concern.

Prayer Chain

Jill Kalberg 805-551-4048

Marty Gustafson 208-819-5361

Prayer Chain is a group of parishioners who pray from home on a daily basis for God's comfort, support and healing of those in any kind of adversity or sorrow. The confidential information on prayer needed is updated monthly. To add a petition for yourself or a loved one, contact Marty, Jill or the church office.

Daughters of the King

Jill Kalberg 805-551-4048

Lyndi Phifer 208-387-2883

Jean Imperatrice 208-755-3160

Dianne Pratt 208-661-8095

Daughters of the King is a lay order of the church dedicated to prayer and service, responding as well to needs identified by our clergy. The St. Luke's chapter currently has 15 members.

We serve St. Luke's and the surrounding community individually as our hearts lead us, coming together on joint projects supporting organizations like Safe Passage and NIC's Center for New Directions that aid single-parent families. Our goal is to be God's love, Jesus's hands and feet in the Coeur d'Alene area.

We meet monthly, third Thursdays at 10:30am in the Alison Library, for prayer, study and fellowship. We welcome all women to come visit and experience the warmth and caring we share and extend outward.

Community Engagement and Outreach

St. Luke's is growing once again in recognition by the wider community for the many ways it serves, partners, and seeks to make a difference here in North Idaho.

We **make our facilities available** for organizations and community groups, including the PEO, Idaho For All, the Coeur d'Alene Art Association, Girl Scouts, and St. Vincent de Paul. Family Promise of North Idaho remains a vital partner in ministry with St. Luke's for homeless families. Addiction recovery groups such as AA, NA, and Alanon meet each week at St. Luke's. We host events for NIC faculty, staff, and students.

We engage in community outreach. Different church groups direct efforts to **help people in need**.

- Daughters of the King oversee the monthly Reverse offerings and their distribution, and the used book shelf supports Backpacks for Kids.
- The Women's Guild donated Snowflake Faire revenue to multiple local organizations, including St. Vincent de Paul, The Village at Orchard Ridge, The Union Gospel Mission, NAMI, Episcopal Relief and Development, The Water Project, NIC food bank and Center for New Directions, and Family Promise.
- Members and community residents donate gift cards at Christmas and other times that are distributed to agencies like St. Vincent de Paul's and Family Promise, and directly to individuals.

We **volunteer our services and leadership in different organizations**. We have members serving on boards and helping in services of Family Promise and Orchard Ridge, tutoring math at NIC, and accompanying people in health situations.

We are **present at public civic events** like Pride in the Park, the Housing and Resource Festival, the Veterans' Stand-Down, and others. **We create and host events for the wider community**. We are still known in the community for our leadership in the documentary-and-discussion series, "Finding Our Place in the Inland Northwest." We have our annual Christmas worship for NIC at Ft. Sherman Chapel.

For international outreach and ministry, St. Luke's members continue to contribute to KIVA Loans, providing micro-loans to people in other countries starting or growing small businesses. In 2025, from connections Fr. David made abroad during his sabbatical, we are contributing from our budget to organizations in Spain, Morocco, and Albania.

Building Bridges: Healing Divides

While our work with our Diocese on our Building Bridges: Healing Divides initiative is coming to an end, our efforts at St. Luke's in our community and especially our partnerships with North Idaho College grows ever stronger.

It has been an exciting two-year journey learning from the BB: HD initiative to help us as a congregation grow our muscles by practicing meaningful courageous conversation, engaging in partnership with our colleagues at NIC, and experiencing new ways to be disciples of Jesus Christ.

The last of our work was a three-part ministry experiment to help us grow our partnership with NIC. We held events to meet different contingencies from the campus and to offer our friendship, support and partnership. Our first event, Oktoberfest with the incomparable Max Mendez and Beer Choir, was widely attended by our congregation and friends, and about 15 folks from NIC. We made excellent contacts,

especially with The Center for New Directions and the Music department. Our continued efforts with campus visits and interactions will continue to open doors for us as a congregation.

Our next event, our Christmas Carols and Readings service in early December saw more than 50 people attend from St. Luke's, the neighborhood and the NIC community. Three NIC students helped to lead us in carol singing with harp, guitar and electric guitar, and Fr. David accompanied us on the piano, and Julia Hossack on violin. There were plenty of Christmas treats and cider for all to enjoy after the service. It opens the door for further music partnership as NIC rebuilds its music program.



Our final event, held in late January brought together St. Luke's and clients of NIC's Center for New Directions, which assists single parents and displaced homemakers with community resources and exploration of career and educational paths. The Parish Hall, reception area and Alison Library were hopping with about 70 people to play games and enjoy a picnic lunch. Twenty-two families from CND came with many children and about 25 St. Luke's members were on hand to show appreciation and love. Each family received one or two bonding opportunities, which included sessions at Triple Play, Suset Bowling, Regal Cinemas and Cascadia Pizza. It was a great introduction, and we hope that this leads to more opportunities where we might be a resource to help when the need arises.

As we come to the end of our two-year partnership with the BB: HD initiative, our work continues. We are now engaging with the NIC Community in their book group and jointly reading *I Never Thought of It That Way, How to Have Fearlessly Courageous Conversations in Difficult Times*, by Monica Guzmam. More details on that partnership will be forthcoming.

We'll continue to offer support and partnership with the Center for New Directions and hope to continue to develop relationships with faculty and staff for more joint ventures.

We as a congregation continue to grow our spiritual lives and continue to offer Christ's endless love to our congregation and community. One outcome of this is the addition of a new group for young adults called Room 4 U, a bi-monthly safe space for young adults to explore the big questions in life and participate in spiritual encouragement. And members of the congregation continue to step up and offer programs and Children's chapel for our youngest members, while we search for a new Minister of Christian Formation and Discipleship.

It is a great joy to be walking in partnership with you as disciples of Christ.

Your Building Bridges: Healing Team: Fr. David Gortner, Fr. David Owren, Dave and Lyndi Phifer, and Kristin Keyes

Knit One, Pray Too Prayer Shawl Ministry

Jo Clifford 208-755-6926

The Knit One, Pray Too Prayer Shawl Ministry creates 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 people dealing with illness, grief or other types of crisis, and to expectant mothers. Baptismal shawls are also presented at baptisms, as well as other happy events like confirmation, graduation and marriage.

The ministry began in December, 2008, and we celebrated our 17th Anniversary in December. Our current members are Jo Clifford, Ann Donaldson, Deborah Douglas, Karen Jenkins, Annette Knapp, Milli Larsen, Betsy McTear, Nan Palmer, Dianne Pratt, Robin Rutherford, Mary Robinette, Karen Skelton and Chris Swails. We all grieve the loss of Donna Kalberg who died in October. A dedicated member, Donna joined our "P.S. 100 Club" with Robin Rutherford in 2024.

Our ministry is open to all who like to knit or crochet, and you may join us at any time. We meet in the Alison Library every Monday at 9:30 a.m. to work on shawls and pray for the recipients. Completed shawls are blessed on the first Sunday of each month at both the 8:00am and 10:00am services. To date, we have completed, blessed and presented over 1486 shawls to those in need of prayer. We also create pocket prayer squares which have been sent to soldiers serving abroad and given to the Healing Ministry. We continue to present prayer shawls to Family Promise, Safe Passages (formerly North Idaho Violence Prevention Center), Orchard Ridge and Beacon Cancer Care.



We believe our prayer shawls and prayer squares are a tangible gift of God's love and comfort, and we are blessed to share our ministry. The response to our shawls has been a rich spiritual experience for each of us, and we thank everyone for your support and generous donations.

If you know of anyone in need of a prayer shawl or prayer square, please do not hesitate to contact me or DeDe in the church office.

United Thank Offering

Christopher Wigley 208-618-9091

This past year was another resounding success for UTO. Though donations were late, I encourage those who do contribute to start planning in advance.

I greatly appreciate all of you for your generous support to this ministry, over and above your pledges and reverse offering. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

God's grace and love,
Christopher N. Wigley, UTO Chair

Christian Formation

St. Luke's By-Laws commit us to steady efforts and opportunities for growing in faith and life in Christ, with oversight by a committee for Christian Education. We use the term "Christian formation" to point to the ongoing learning and training that shapes, changes, and directs us, to help us be deliberate disciples of Jesus across our entire lives – from infancy through childhood and youth, from early adulthood through our middle years and elder years, in all stages and settings. We learn and practice our faith with each other in informal ways, and also in structured ways through programs, classes, groups, and events to enrich our spiritual life and strengthen our discipleship. Our Children's Chapel is a primary way of offering learning about our Christian faith for children, and providing resources and ways of teaching at home for parents. Our youth are invited to learn scripture and our unique Christian tradition on the path to being confirmed. Children and youth participate in Camp Cross and other events offered by the Diocese. Adults gather for book study, bible study, prayer, and discussion groups at St. Luke's, and participate in wider learning opportunities by the Diocese and other Church-affiliated organizations. We encourage our people to adopt regular practices of prayer and meditation on scripture, and we provide information on



readily available online resources and apps that support regular prayer and study. And we guide people in preparation for baptism, confirmation, reaffirmation of faith, and renewal of vows.

From 2024 through the beginning of 2026, we have been part of the Diocese of Spokane's program for strengthening our capacities for honest and respectful conversations with people across our differences – "Building Bridges: Healing Divides." This continues our long work of growing as a congregation in entering courageous and caring conversations both inside the church and in our wider community.

Children's Chapel and Family Fellowship Events

Lyndi Phifer 425-387-2883

Parents of children

Dedicated adults

Children's Chapel provides a child-friendly worship experience during the 10:00am lessons and sermon that helps them experience scripture, prayer, praise, confession and forgiveness, and reflection on how to follow Jesus. As much as possible, it carries forward the spirit and practices of worship that were originally part of worship experiences created at St. Luke's called "The Well" and "The Jordan."

St. Luke's was blessed with the ministry of the Rev. Mary Ayers who joined our staff in 2023 to strengthen Christian Formation opportunities, with a strong focus on Children's Chapel. Her debilitating concussion and long period of recovery required adults and youth to step forward to take up leadership of Children's Chapel for nearly two years, with times when Rev. Mary was able to return and help lead. Rev. Mary resigned in the early Fall of 2025, realizing the necessity of focusing entirely on a full return to her fulltime career with the state of Washington.



Children’s ministry has truly been a community effort. Faithful teachers each month include Michelle and Reese Johnson, Kinzo and Jennifer Mihara, Lyndi and Dave Phifer, and Mike Dolan. Many others have stepped in as needed to assist including Robin and Merle VanHouten, Jeff and Rachel Wickham, Gayne Clifford, Kristin Keyes and Kari Romeo, Matthew Gardner, Lisa Nunlist, Barbara Webb, Marty Gustafson, Cary Miller, and other parents and grandparents.

Other important events and activities for family ministry have been our community dinners and picnics, special days like the Green of the Church and the Many C’s of Christmas, a children’s Stations of the Cross, specific family “eat and meet” gatherings, and opportunities for spiritual enrichment through learning field trips and service at our wider community engagement events.

Highlight activities associated with Children’s Chapel

- ✦ An Epiphany cake decorating party led by Lisa Nunlist, where children learned about the history of the Kings’ Cake and got to decorate their own cakes.
- ✦ Special Advent / Christmas projects led by Mike Dolan resulted in children making Christmas creche figures out of papier mâché in Advent 2024, and Advent wreaths in 2025. These were given away through raffles; the children donated this money to Kiva Loans and to a local organization.
- ✦ Many kids and families participated in various camps offered at Camp Cross and WinterCross.
- ✦ Brian Kilmer, Reese Johnson, and Ella Wickham were confirmed by Bp. Rehberg in January 2025.
- ✦ Donald Werst was our only baptism last year.



St. Luke’s is currently interviewing potential candidates for our Minister of Christian Formation and Discipleship. In the meantime, we continue to offer Children’s Chapel, in prayer and discussion of ways to enrich and build our ministry with families, youth, and children.

Book Groups and Documentary/Movie Groups

Fr. David Gortner 510-734-1066

Jill Kalberg, Lyndi Phifer, Ern Warner, Lisa Nunlist, Kara Kral

Two steady book groups have continued their meetings on Wednesdays in the Alison Room.

- ✦ 1:00 p.m., books have focused on spiritual life, relationship with God, spiritual depth, and enriching our life of prayer and contemplation.
- ✦ 4:00 p.m., books have focused on recognizing unhealthy forms of Christianity, engaging public discourse in faithful and faith-informed ways, and practicing courageous and caring conversation.

Any who wish to continue learning and stretching in their faith are invited to join or form book groups. In 2026, book groups continue. There is always room for starting new book groups or shifting directions for

a book group. We seek to move where the Holy Spirit is leading us. Anybody interested in hosting or participating in such groups, talk to Fr. David or other church leaders.

For Fall 2025 – Summer 2026, Fr. David mapped out a reading list for everyone in the congregation. These include these books to strengthen our habits for courageous and caring conversation in these times:

- ❖ ***I Never Thought of it That Way*** by Monica Guzman – We join NIC in their community-wide reading of this book.
- ❖ ***How We Learn to Be Brave*** by Bp. Mariann Budde
- ❖ ***We the Fallen People*** by Robert McKenzie
- ❖ ***Transforming Evangelism*** by David Gortner

With NIC, we will also return to offering documentary and movie events, which are successful ways of bringing people together for meaningful conversation about important issues in current life.

Bible Study Opportunities

Fr. David Gortner

In 2025, we concluded ***Walking through the Bible*** for adults, on Tuesday early evenings (Fall 2024 – Spring 2025). This rich reading through all significant parts of scripture together, tied to some historical and theological teaching and discussion, enriched all participants with deeper understanding of the total sweep of “the Great Story” of God’s enduring love and saving action through history.

We encouraged St. Luke’s members to continue reading and meditating with our diocesan selections of scripture from 2023 and 2024.

Any interested in pursuing some deeper Bible study can request resources and start a group. Fr. David has asked the entire congregation to read these books of the Bible. Doing this together with others will be greatly enriching:

- ✦ The Acts of the Apostles
- ✦ The Book of Proverbs
- ✦ The Gospels of Matthew and Luke
- ✦ The Book of Genesis

Men’s Discussion Group

Ian Hicks 714-742-3412

Dave Phifer 425-387-2881

The Men’s Spiritual Discussion Group has grown substantially over this year. We maintain a focus on Psalm 46, verse 10: “Be still and know that I am God,” as the primary guidance for our conversation. We all have thoughts and opinions and often grapple with solutions to issues we face. As Christians we ask how we can continue our work of supporting the Mission of St. Luke’s. We seek to find our Lord’s guidance in every aspect of dealing with challenges and consider how we might react or should respond in the face of such challenges. Our meeting includes a light supper and camaraderie, followed by discussion. Come and join us! Meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month.

Being With

Ernest Warner 208-699-2910

Jeff Wickham 208-659-8746

Dates TBD

2025 was not an active year for this program, yet we will continue to offer a space for open discussion and mutual discovery using this method designed by the Church of England. It creates a great space for people who are exploring faith or who have needed to step away from an overly strict faith tradition and are looking for ways to rediscover their faith in fresh ways. This spirit has informed what we offer in Room 4U for young adults and the Men's Discussion Group. If you know people seeking this kind of space for meaningful connection, please invite them to participate and consider joining yourself, all are welcome.

"Being With is about sharing stories about our lives and hearing the stories of others. These stories are the small things that mean a lot to us and they can also be the most challenging and life changing moments of our lives. There's a space for every person's life and story."

Ern Warner & Jeff Wickham, co-facilitators

Dave & Lyndi Phifer, co-facilitators

Education for Ministry (EfM)

Ernest Warner 208-699-2910

Glenda Empsall deacon@stlukescca.org

Jeff Wickham 208-659-8746

Do you think EfM has been on hiatus for too long? To resume St. Luke's EfM tradition, which began in 1993, we need at least six people to say "YES!" by July 2026. So – Yes to what?

- A unique four-year program in theological education based upon small-group study and practice.
- Study includes weekly readings and preparation for participation in small, mentored groups that provide a framework for understanding life, shaping actions, and deepening faith.
- Yearly sessions run September – May, during which time you become more theologically informed, reflective, and articulate about your ministry. Take one year at a time.
- Taking the course online is available and that can be explored with you if you are interested. It appears that we may be able to combine online and in-person attendance to meet attendance requirements. We may partner with the Cathedral and other nearby Episcopal churches.

EfM is not for ordination. EfM is for empowering us to be active participants in the whole ministry of the church. It is for strengthening everyone's ministry of sharing God's good news of love in words and actions, increasing confidence in faithful living, knowing and owning the rich heritage of our faith, and articulating your personal faith. This can allow anyone – parents, grandparents, teachers, health care professionals, artists, engineers, retirees, etc. – to be more comfortable in living their faith in personal relationships and our communities. See online <https://theology.sewanee.edu/education-for-ministry/>.

2025-2026 program costs per person are \$420 to \$475 per year, which covers study materials and texts. EfM has updated their program with new materials with a goal of interactive group learning.

Please contact Ern Warner at 208-699-2910 or Glenda Empsall at deacon@stlukescca.org or ask any EfM graduate or participant about their experiences. Happy discerning!

Fellowship and Community Building

Time together is where we form and nurture life-giving relationships, and where we build bonds of connection in Christ. We experience sharing and celebrating Christ's overflowing, unconditional love. One of the key points made by members is that "we come to know each other as we do things together for others." This community finds great joy and pride in ministries with food, crafts, and fundraising.

Welcoming / Involving Committee

Cary Miller 208-661-6606 cjmiller19666@gmail.com Farley Green 208-659-0007 egangreen@gmail.com

In 2025, the Welcoming Committee continued to support the core value of hospitality by creating opportunities for new and current parishioners to get to know each other. We continued the tradition of serving King Cakes—baked by our own Lisa Nunlist—on Epiphany Sunday, preceded the Saturday before by a cake-icing-and-pizza party for children and youth. We organized an all-parish potluck for the annual meeting in early February, hosted coffee hours and a brunch. We continued reaching out to new members, first with a welcoming handwritten note and a week later with a phone call. These activities support the strength of the church and can also be a lot of fun! Please reach out if you would like to join.

St. Luke's Women's Guild

Andrea Partington – President 208-755-1829 Brooke Dunton – Treasurer 208-661-584
Marcia Siring – Vice-President 360-929-1515 Kara Kral – Secretary 208-421-2830

The mission of Women's Guild is to serve the church and local community as needed and to provide a way for women to socialize and get to know one another. We meet September – May at 1 pm in the Parish Hall with a scripture study starting at 12:30. In the fall, we help to coordinate the Snowflake Faire (Nov 14, 2026), which is a festive fundraiser in which the whole church as well as the local community participates. This year we raised \$6,111, and about half will go to church needs and half will go to support local charitable groups. In the spring, we have various speakers of interest come to most of our meetings. Once or twice a year, we have a "Ladies Night Out," which is a social hour and movie for anyone who wishes to attend. Guild is open to all women of the church.

Omega Guild

Kara Kral 208-421-2830 Brooke Dunton 208-661-5848

The mission of Omega Guild has been to provide a caring, loving reception in the Parish Hall for family and friends to gather immediately after a funeral or memorial service at St. Luke's. The reception may be as simple as cookies and coffee or a full meal may be served—it's the family's choice to make. There is no expense to the family for this reception as we have a memorial fund which accepts donations, and our members provide the food and help.

All members of St. Luke's belong to the Omega Guild. As collective members of the congregation, parishioners may be called upon to assist with the reception. Church members may be asked to bring food, serve during the reception, or help clean up following the gathering.

There were five funeral/memorial receptions in 2025 with over 400 total in attendance. St. Luke's parishioners prepared and donated the bulk of the food served to those 400 participants. At a time when a family is experiencing the loss of a beloved member, it is a privilege for the Guild to be able to offer a measure of comfort and sympathy by hosting a gathering of family and friends.

Worship with Movement

Lyndi Phifer lyndiphifer@icloud.com

Worship with movement is an amazing opportunity to worship with the added dimensions of motion, synchronization and rhythm. The members often experience a dynamic connection with the Holy Spirit through the lyrics and corresponding movements. We augmented the 10:00 service during advent and did the song at the UGM Center for Women and Children as well. The songs and lyrics are often used as prayers for individuals or circumstances. We continue to welcome anyone wanting to try this expression and are open to bringing it to those who want to participate by just watching and listening. Other ideas or input are welcome.

History Committee

Andrea Partington 208-755-1829

The St. Luke's History Committee has been sifting through a plethora of information about our church. Much of this was compiled by Steve Shepperd, Lisa Nunlist, and Farley Green. We are organizing by decade and identifying what to include. We have an outline for the first two chapters. Our goal is to create a small pamphlet that highlights St. Luke's, a booklet that is more comprehensive, a comprehensive link on the website, and a coloring page that highlights the architecture.

Finance and Investment

Faithful living includes attention to how we give from our resources and how we take care of the resources given to us. Our St. Luke's community has been faithful in its generosity. And St. Luke's as a church has been careful with its financial resources, while also ready to expend resources when necessary for strengthening our ministry, mission, and facilities. What we do with our money, like what we do with our bodies, is a way we show our faith and loving commitment to God.

We are blessed with incredibly generous people who care deeply about the ministry and mission of St. Luke's, who want us to be a place that shares, celebrates, and embodies Christ's overflowing, unconditional love here in North Idaho. We have been blessed by the generosity of people who have bequeathed planned gifts to St. Luke's, building what is now a healthy set of endowment and investment funds. We are blessed by people who keep careful watch over our management of funds. The past few years have created a strong financial base for extending our ministry and mission.

Money Counters

Karen Skelton 208-660-6756

Money Counters are a group of parishioners that count parish contributions that have come into the parish during the week, as well as on Sundays in the offering plates. There are four different groups of money counters, each group counting on the same Sunday/Monday each month and alternating the months when there is a fifth Sunday.

Our dedicated group of volunteers count and document funds received from parishioners that in turn are used by the bookkeeper to credit each parishioner's account with their pledges and donations as well as posting the funds to designated accounts, i.e., discretionary funds, flowers, UTO, Christmas offering, etc.

We are a behind-the-scene group of volunteers with an extremely important task at hand. Currently we have seven capable and dedicated counters. We do have one permanent opening for a counter for the second Monday of each month and hope a member of our congregation might possibly step up and volunteer as a money counter. Might you be willing to sign on and help us!

Endowment and Planned Giving Committee

Marc Wallace 208-772-8565

Lumarie Lovey 208-689-3334

John Empsall 208-661-0585

Ann Rule 208-771-7038

The committee encourages and assists with Planned Giving. Planned Giving is a plan to contribute assets to St. Luke's either in current time or after death. It is giving beyond our normal annual operating pledge, usually in your will or trust, or by tax deductible contributions in current time. When received, the contributions are deposited into our endowments and long-term investment fund.

St. Luke's endowments and long-term investment fund help secure and protect our financial future, create a stable source of revenue to support our ministry year after year, and provide a base for special ministry and facility improvement projects. The funds are invested through the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF) in State Street managed investment accounts. The investments have been distributed into three funds: Permanent Endowment, General Endowment, and Investment Fund.

Since our original investment of \$510,000 with ECF and State Street in August 2021, growth in our funds has been tremendous. Bequests and memorial contributions of varying amounts raised our base to over \$800,000. Combined with market growth in recent years, we surpassed \$1,000,000 in 2024. The 2025 beginning balance of our ECF funds was \$1,042,263. The year-end balance was \$1,176,698. Market growth and income totaled \$182,097. There was a withdrawal in December of \$42,000. to help fund the columbarium project.

Respectfully submitted,
Lumarie Lovey

Treasurer's Report, Budget, and Statement of Income

Dave Phifer 425-387-2881

Lumarie Lovey 208-689-3334



Treasurer's Letter February 2026 Annual Meeting

Through your continued gifts of time, talent, and treasure, St. Luke's has continued to share, celebrate, and embody Jesus Christ's overflowing, unconditional love in North Idaho. Your faithful financial gifts have allowed your church to remain in good financial standing.

St. Luke's ended the 2025 year on a strong financial foundation. In 2025, our total giving was \$395,960 against total expenditures of \$391,968. The congregation contributed generously to capital improvement projects and Memorial Fund donations. Our long-term endowment funds also increased by \$274,684 due to strong market performance.

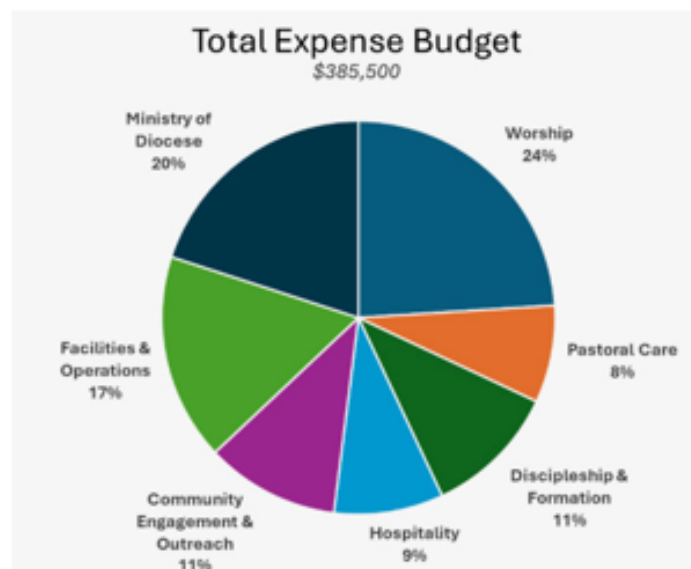
As we enter budget year 2026 the Vestry has approved a balanced operating budget of \$385,500. A summary has been published and distributed.

Lumarie Lovey has graciously agreed to take on the position of Co-Treasurer. I look forward to working with her going forward. Sincere thanks, Lumarie!

If you have any questions feel free to contact either me (dave@nvsnw.com, 425-387-2881) or Lumarie (lumarielovey@gmail.com, 208-689-3334).

Respectfully,

-Dave Phifer, Co-Treasurer





St. Luke's Episcopal Church

2026 Budget Totals

Giving + Rental:	\$ 385,500.00
Total Expenses:	\$ 385,497.90
(Net):	\$ 2.10

Consolidated Accounts	2025 Budget	Actual 2025	% 2025 Budget	2026 Total Budget	2026 vs 2025 Budget Change	2026 Budget vs. 2025 Actuals
Income						
4000-00 Operating Income						
4030-00 Plate, Pledges, Non Pledge						
4030-01 Loose Plate Offerings	6,200.00	9,784.00	158%	6,500.00	4.8%	(3,284.00)
4030-02 Pledges	230,000.00	226,777.00	99%	240,000.00	4.3%	13,223.00
4030-03 Non-Pledge Regular Support	60,000.00	56,211.00	94%	60,000.00	0.0%	3,789.00
4050-00 Facility Use Donations	13,300.00	12,009.00	90%	13,200.00	-0.8%	1,191.00
4059-00 Contingent ECF Income	15,000.00	-	0%	37,000.00	146.7%	37,000.00
Total Operating Income	324,500.00	304,781.00	94%	356,700.00	9.9%	51,919.00
4040-00 Non-Operating Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-
4053-00 Educational Programs	1,800.00	306.00	17%	500.00	-72.2%	194.00
4054-00 Columbarium Income	3,200.00	1,785.00	56%	2,500.00	-21.9%	715.00
4055-00 Memorial Donations	5,000.00	36,675.00	734%	5,000.00	0.0%	(31,675.00)
4057-00 Special Donations/Ministry	-	24,533.00	++	-	++	(24,533.00)
Total Non-Operating Income	10,000.00	63,299.00	633%	8,000.00	-20.0%	(55,299.00)
Total "Donated" Income	334,500.00	368,080.00	110%	364,700.00	9.0%	(3,380.00)
Total Giving + Rental Income		395,960.00		385,500.00		(10,460.00)
Expense						
5120-00 Diocesan Assessments	64,404.00	64,402.00	100%	68,283.23	6.0%	3,881.23
5140-00 Clergy Expenses	154,815.00	140,735.00	91%	140,300.00	-9.4%	(435.00)
5141-00 Staff Expenses	70,275.00	61,581.00	88%	86,573.67	23.2%	24,992.67
5142-00 Ministry Expenses	4,700.00	3,285.00	70%	4,700.00	0.0%	1,415.00
5144-00 Office / Building Expenses	87,040.00	77,591.00	89%	85,641.00	-1.6%	8,050.00
Total Operating Expense	381,234.00	347,594.00	91%	385,497.90	1.1%	37,903.90
5240-00 Non- Operating Expenses	-	-	-	-	-	-
5145-05 Columbarium Expenses	318.00	477.00	150%	600.00	88.7%	123.00
5151-00 Capital Improvement	9,000.00	24,727.00	275%	9,000.00	0.0%	(15,727.00)
5152-00 Capital Equipment	-	-	-	2,000.00	-	2,000.00
5161-00 Parish Based Outreach	4,800.00	13,862.00	289%	4,800.00	0.0%	(9,062.00)
5161-01 UTO Offerings	700.00	546.00	78%	700.00	0.0%	154.00
5181-00 To Other Parish Organizations	50.00	-	0%	2,000.00	3900.0%	2,000.00
5182-00 Gifts to Orgs Outside Parish	2,000.00	4,762.00	238%	4,800.00	140.0%	38.00
Uncategorized Expense	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Non-Operating Expense	16,868.00	44,374.00	263%	23,900.00	41.7%	(20,474.00)
Total Overall Expenses	398,102.00	391,968.00	96%	409,397.90	2.8%	17,429.90
Other Income						
4141-00 Operating Accounts Interest	5,400.00	11,762.00	218%	5,400.00	0.0%	(6,362.00)
4142-00 Unrestricted Investment Income	35,000.00	274,684.00	785%	42,400.00	21.1%	(232,284.00)
4162-00 511 Wallace Income	28,800.00	27,880.00	97%	28,800.00	0.0%	920.00
5162-00 511 Wallace Expenses	(3,600.00)	(6,172.00)	171%	(3,600.00)	0.0%	2,572.00
Total Other Income	65,600.00	308,154.00	470%	73,000.00	11.3%	(235,154.00)
Total Overall Income	400,100.00	676,234.00	169%	437,700.00	9.4%	(238,534.00)
Total Net Income	1,998.00	38,882.07	1946%	28,302.10	1316.5%	(10,579.97)