



## BRINGING YOU GOOD NEWS Luke 2:10

MAY 2026

### Reflections with Your Rector

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures  
great and small,  
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God  
made them all!*



Dear Friends, what beautiful days we are in, during these Great 50 Days of Easter.

Christ the Lord is risen! And new life springs up all around us. Enjoy these amazing days.

I am so grateful for you all. Our journey through Holy Week and Easter was amazing, profound, moving, beautiful. Our continuing celebrations of Easter Season have been joyful and uplifting. Thank you to all who enriched our worship as we moved through the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus our Savior and Lord.

We are days away from our next big celebration! We are eagerly looking forward to hosting an early Mother's Day celebration on May 2 for single-parent families that are part of NIC's Center for New Directions – and for our own families. I know that you good people of St. Luke's will show up to meet, greet, and welcome everyone who comes, dive into warm conversations with parents, help children make their gifts, and offer support and encouragement to all the families who come. What a great time to form new friendships!

You have heard me repeatedly emphasize the importance of conversation and relationship-building. I hope I'm not wasting words. Consider this: Every single successful event this year for our friends at North Idaho College has happened because some of us took the time to meet people, start conversations, ask questions, learn, and build relationships. It's from these conversations that new ideas form and possibilities arise. This is how we build and share and grow Holy Community.

We look forward to our celebration of Pentecost on May 24. The heart of the miracle of Pentecost is communication! The followers of Jesus fanned out into the public marketplace and talked to people individually and in small groups. They made connections with people, regardless of their language and background, and shared

*See Rector (continued on page 2)*



### COMING EVENTS

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

May 2—Mother's Day Luncheon for  
NIC's Center for New  
Directions, Noon to 2 p.m.

May 3—Camp Cross Sunday

May 5—Contemplative Prayer on  
Zoom, 5:30 p.m.

May 10—Room 4U young adult  
group, 6:30 p.m.

May 12—Men's Discussion Group, 6  
p.m.

May 15—Ladies' Night Out, 5 p.m.

May 19—Contemplative Prayer on  
Zoom, 5:30 p.m.

May 21—Daughters of the King,  
10:30 a.m.; Vestry  
meeting, 5:30 p.m.

May 24—Pentecost; Room 4U young  
adult group, 6:30 p.m.

June 6-7—Lay Leadership Retreat

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their great story. And the Holy Spirit opened doors of understanding between them and the people they met.

I invite you all to start some new conversations and talk to some new people. Summer is a great time to connect! People are outside more, spirits are brighter, and the days are longer.

So, here's an assignment (says the old professor-guy!). Pick three people this next month that you don't know deeply to open time of conversation. You can do this at church during coffee hour. You can do this with a neighbor you don't know very well. You can do this with an owner or worker in a shop where you go. You can do this with someone at a veterans' group or at Pride or at the library or in the police or fire department. And, some of you can join me in continuing to open conversations with staff at NIC.

This summer, I will offer Sunday sessions from one of my books, *Transforming Evangelism*. I'll be doing work with our sister church in Moscow from this book, and I will be preparing a revised and updated edition. I invite you to take time with me to build your "core muscles" for building Holy Community through open-hearted conversations.

Christ is risen! It is good news worth sharing.

*Fr. David*

## Why Do We...?

### Why do we pray like we do in the Prayers of the People?

In the Prayers of the People (usually after we say the Nicene Creed together), we bring before God our cares and concerns for the world and its creatures and people. During Easter Season, we bring to God our thanks and praise for the good we see and experience in the world.

This is not the only time we pray. Each of us individually prays to God. We pray in our families. We pray in pairs and small groups with each other. But there is something powerful about our praying together.

The Prayers of the People are not just the prayers of one person said on our behalf. We pray these prayers together with the person leading us. In most ways of praying together, the congregation speaks part of the prayers — maybe in a repeated cry to God, or maybe in sentences that complete a prayer.

Our Prayers of the People always carry us through big categories of prayer. We always pray for the universal Church around the world and in our own country and region; for our own congregation and its spiritual life and ministry; for our nation and its leaders and people; for the world, in all its beauty and brokenness and need; for our local communities; for people who are sick, suffering, in need, or in trouble; and for those who have died.

We encourage people to speak their own prayers aloud during the Prayers of the People. It is a powerful thing to have the people of God raise their voices at the same time, naming the places and people and situations they want to raise to God.

The Prayers of the People become more meaningful, moving, and powerful when we bring ourselves fully into prayer — with heart, mind, and voice.



### Diocesan Prayer for 2026

*(This prayer can be sung or said, and is designed to be sung to Hymn 25 as desired.)*

O Holy One of steadfast love, the fount of hope in whom we trust; Draw near to us in our laments and bind our broken heartedness. God, you alone our song and source, sustainer of our very breath; In every chorus teach your way: do justice, mercy, humbleness. Our melody we lift to you, Creator of the sea and sky; Sing glory, laud, and praise utmost, to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

# Prayer & Worship

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### MAY BIRTHDAYS

1 Rod Kalberg	16 David Brooks
4 Sam Lyman	17 Barbara Campbell
5 Deborah Douglas	17 The Rev. Holladay Sanderson
7 Kelly Campbell	20 Pat House
8 Jennifer Gardner	23 Debbie Kerns
10 Terri Radford	26 Gayne Clifford
12 Jean Imperatrice	29 Tom Green
12 Michelle Johnson	29 Bill Skelton
12 Ella Wickham	30 Laird Will
14 Joan Day	31 Howard Keller
14 Caelob Ratliff	31 Betsy McTear
15 Steve Flory	31 Anne Sedgwick

### ANNIVERSARIES

5 Debbie & Henry Lane  
6 Glenda & John Empsall  
30 Terri & Gordon Radford



*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, Peggy Lembeck, Beverly Merriman, Sean Whelan, Julian Wheeler, Andre Smith, Bob Gustafson, Don Werst, Peggy O'Neal, Jo & Gayne Clifford, Hilary Caisley, Barbara Webb, Martha Vilandr , Carl Vanslyke, April Miller, Scott Campbell, Henry Lane, Eric Cooper, Steve Gardner, Dan Ayers, Shawn Manuola, Martha & Bob West, Summer Taylor, Barbara Lee, Jane Gortner, Kelly Campbell, Ana Torres, Barbara Campbell, Kirsten Pomerantz, Cyndi Hippler, Ginger & Ken Wright, Mike Schueller, Wayne, Tom Rhoades, Peter, Katie, Doug, Janet Crane, Howard Keller, Phyllis Albee, Mary Ayers, John Empsall, Christopher Wigley, Carol Owren, David Brooks, Jamie & Dave Ziegler, Ted Jordan, Jill Kalberg, Kay Lockhart, Cary Miller, Mary Kay Hanson, Lisa Nunlist, Gretchen Rehberg

**Baptisms:** Juliette Lane Doudna & Benjamin Osmer Watkins

**Renewal of Marriage Vows:** Janet & Ian Hicks

## DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

### May 3: **Camp Cross**

We give thanks to the ministry of Camp Cross, our outdoor "cathedral" and a place of formation for all ages. We also give thanks for the birthday of The Revs. Beverly Hosea (5/5) and Ted Nitz (5/6).



### May 10: **Mother's Day**

We give thanks for Mary the mother of Jesus and for all the mothers in our lives. We also give thanks for the birthdays of The Revs. Adam Bartholomew (5/11) and Christine Wysock (5/12).

### May 17: **Retired Clergy**

We give thanks for the ways their lives witness to God's love and enrich the faith and mission of our Diocese. We also give thanks for the birthdays of The Revs. Kathy Kelly (5/15), Holladay Sanderson (5/17) and Marthy Hurlburt (5/20).

### May 24: **Holy Spirit, Dover/Sandpoint & St. Mark's, Moscow**

We give thanks for coming of the Holy Spirit and the birth of God's Holy Church. We pray for the mission and ministry of Holy Spirit, Dover/Sandpoint. We pray for the ministry of the Bishop and Office of the Bishop. We pray for the mission and ministry of St. Mark's Moscow.

### May 31: **Trinity Church, Oroville**

We give thanks for the gift that is the God who is Three in One, reminding us that we are created in and for community. Holy Trinity, Grangeville and Sunnyside and Trinity Church, Oroville: We pray for the mission and ministry of our congregations.

**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](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 ([lyndiphifer@icloud.com](mailto:lyndiphifer@icloud.com)). All ages welcome.



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

# Adult 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 ([priest@stlukesca.org](mailto:priest@stlukesca.org))! Watch the Friday Memo email for details and updates about formation offerings.

## Recommended Readings for the Whole Congregation

Fr. David is asking us to read together these books over the course of this program year, as we continue to build our strengths and habits for courageous and caring conversations as followers of Jesus.

***I Never Thought of it That Way*** by Monica Guzman — “Learn how to bring curiosity and courage to even the most difficult conversations across America’s polarized political divide with these actionable tools for navigating challenging disagreements.” We will join NIC in their community-wide reading of this book.

***How We Learn to Be Brave*** by Bp. Mariann Budde — “Bishop Budde explores the full range of decisive moments, from the most visible and dramatic (the decision to go), to the internal and personal (the decision to stay), to brave choices made with an eye toward the future (the decision to start), those born of suffering (the decision to accept that which we did not choose), and those that come unexpectedly (the decision to step up to the plate).”

***Transforming Evangelism*** by Fr. David — Episcopalians’ hands-off approach has led to a crisis of evangelism across our culture and with our own children. “How can Episcopalians reclaim evangelism primarily as an enriching spiritual practice?” How shall we practice evangelism in today’s multicultural but fractured society? Fr. David provides spiritual and conversational practices that set healthy habits for respectful evangelism.

***We the Fallen People*** by Robert Tracy McKenzie — “The success and survival of American democracy have never been guaranteed. What we must do, argues the author, is take an unflinching look at the very nature of democracy — its strengths and weaknesses, what it can promise, and where it overreaches. And this means we must take an unflinching look at ourselves. McKenzie, following C. S. Lewis, claims there are only two reasons to believe in majority rule: because we have confidence in human nature — or because we don't. The Founders subscribed to [biblical and philosophical ideas] that humans are fallen and their virtue is always doubtful, and they wrote the U.S. Constitution to frame a republic intended to handle our weaknesses.”

See *Readings*, continued on page 5

# Adult Formation

*Readings (continued from page 4)*

**The Bible** – Fr. David recommends reading these books of the Bible this year

- ◆ The Acts of the Apostles– the great adventure of the birth and growth of the Church
- ◆ The Book of Proverbs– a collection of wisdom and guidance, good for our times
- ◆ The Gospels of Luke and Matthew– we are finishing Luke and beginning Matthew.
- ◆ The Book of Genesis– the starting point of all Abrahamic faiths.

## Room 4U Young Adult Group Second & Fourth Sundays, 6:30-8 p.m.

Room 4U is a group for young adults aged 18 through the 20's who are seeking connection, meaningful discussion about the big questions in life, and some light spiritual contemplative activities. It is a safe group where all are welcome. Room 4U meets on the second and fourth Sunday evenings of each month from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the Alison Library.

Young people are encouraged to come enjoy a hot beverage, great fellowship and spiritual encouragement. Bring a friend! Contact Rachel Karns ([rachelkarns@gmail.com](mailto:rachelkarns@gmail.com)) for more information.



# Youth Formation

## Confirmation Preparation for St. Luke's Kids in Grades 5-9



Parents, if you have kids in 5<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> grade, they are old enough to begin the process toward confirmation. Here at St. Luke's, we want all who are confirmed to begin with a good reading knowledge of the Bible, so we begin by walking through the Bible together. The Bible is this amazing, complex collection of books that covers thousands of years of human experience of God. In the Episcopal Church, we rely deeply on the Bible. We learn many of the stories in it, but how many of us have read the Bible and know "the path of God's love all the way from the beginning to the end, from Adam's creation to John's revelation?"

Fr. David will offer afternoon meeting times with young people ready to read and learn the Bible together. Please contact him directly ([priest@stlukescd.org](mailto:priest@stlukescd.org)) or sign up at church! We will determine a good meeting time together.

## High School Youth Pilgrimage to Hawaii!

The Presiding Bishop's office announced that the triennial Episcopal Youth Event is canceled this year. In its place will be provincial youth gatherings. The Diocese of Spokane is in Province VIII, and they are headed to Hawaii!

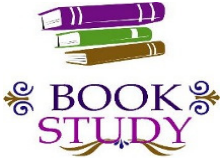
This pilgrimage is aimed at youth in grades 9-12, and will take place from July 27-31. The total cost of the trip is \$1,200, with \$400 of that coming from the family, \$400 from the church, and \$400 coming from the diocese. If money is a barrier to participation, the diocese will find additional funds for scholarships.



Please contact Alex Flannagan ([alexfl@spokanediocese.org](mailto:alexfl@spokanediocese.org)) if you are interested. Spots are limited.

# Learning Opportunities

## Book Studies at St. Luke's



**Wednesday afternoons at 1 p.m.:** On April 8, the group will begin reading *Primary Speech & Psychology of Prayer* by Ann & Barry Ulinov. "This book sets out to define prayer as both a means of drawing nearer to God everyday and as a coping tool that people can use in order to achieve harmony, balance, and satisfaction in their lives." All are welcome to join. Contact Lyndi Phifer ([lyndiphifer@icloud.com](mailto:lyndiphifer@icloud.com)) or Ern Warner ([ern.m.warner@gmail.com](mailto:ern.m.warner@gmail.com)) for more information.

**Wednesday afternoons at 4 p.m.:** The group is reading *I Never Thought of It That Way: How to Have Fearlessly Curious Conversations in Dangerously Divided Times* by Monica Guzmán. There are some copies of the book available. All are welcome! Contact Lisa Nunlist (208-640-9110 or [lisanunlist@gmail.com](mailto: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.

# Life Together

## Vestry Highlights

### APRIL 16, 2026

- Received final plans from Architects West for columbarium project. Bids to be sought as soon as possible.

**Good Stewards:** Jeff Wickham, Bill Kral and Ian Hicks for repairing the refrigerator; DeDe Pederson for her wonderful administrative support; Farley Green for her work on E=News and as Vestry Clerk.



**Next meeting:** The next meeting will be on Thursday, May 21, at 5:30 p.m. in the Alison Library. All are welcome to attend.

## Mother's Day Celebration with NIC'S Center for New Directions Saturday, May 2, Noon - 2 p.m.



As part of St. Luke's outreach to NIC's Center for New Directions, we will host a Mother's Day celebration for kids to bless their moms with a bouquet, small potted flower, and card, as well as a catered lunch and fun game time. Thank you to the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane and The Lily Foundation for funding support.

Please contact Lyndi Phifer ([lyndiphifer@icloud.com](mailto:lyndiphifer@icloud.com)) if you can help with the event or make a dessert.

## Camp Cross Annual Appeal and Camp Cross Sunday, May 3

Camp Cross provides a safe and quality summer camp experience for youth, adults and families across the Diocese of Spokane and beyond to come together and celebrate their faith. This experience is offered to everyone, regardless of circumstance or family income, and as such Camp relies on the generosity of donors to replenish the scholarship fund each year. A donation of any size is greatly appreciated and helps continue the expansion of this ministry's outreach.



Sunday, May 3, has been designated as Camp Cross Sunday. Please consider a donation and place a check payable to Camp Cross with "Scholarship" in the memo line in the offering plate. Donations can also be dropped off in the parish office, made online at <https://theepiscopaldioceseofspokane.churchcenter.com/giving> (choose "Camp Cross Scholarship" from the drop-down menu), or sent to the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane, 245 E. 13<sup>th</sup> Ave., Spokane, WA 99202.

# Life Together

## Women's Guild

Women's Guild will not have a regular meeting in May. Instead, all ladies are invited to the Ladies' Night Out event on Friday, May 15. See the article below for more details.

The next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, June 2. All ladies of St. Luke's are welcome to attend Guild meetings. If you have questions or need a ride to meetings, please contact Andrea Partington (208-755-1829).



## Men's Discussion Group Meets Tuesday, May 12



Join the Men's Discussion Group on Tuesday, May 12, at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Our guiding thought is "Be still and know that I am God." It's an evening of relaxing Christian camaraderie and positive conversation. A light supper is served. Please RSVP to Ian Hicks for catering purposes.

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

## Women's Guild Ladies' Night Out Friday, May 15, at 5 p.m.

Mark your calendars for Ladies' Night Out on Friday, May 15, at 5 p.m. in the Parish Hall. This is a terrific and fun way to share an evening with the ladies of the church, as well as the friends that they bring.



Please bring snacks and/or finger food to share, and any fun beverages you choose (alcohol included). Our movie for the night is the hilarious and ever hopeful "Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium" starring Dustin Hoffman and Natalie Portman. We hope to see you there! Questions? Contact Kari Romeo (208-797-1937).

## Lay Leadership Retreat, Friday-Sunday June 5-7, at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center



Join lay leaders from across the diocese for a weekend of rest, worship and play! This retreat will be a beautiful opportunity to connect with folks from across the region doing similar work.

Arrive 3-5 p.m. on Friday and depart after lunch on Sunday. Yes, you can arrive late or leave early if you need to! Yes, if you live nearby you can go home to sleep, but you'll still be assigned a room. Bring clothes, toiletries, relaxing hobbies (puzzles, LEGO, crafts, etc.) and, if you have them, a Book of Common Prayer and songs, hymnals, etc.

Register online at <https://theepiscopaldioceseofspokane.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3318070>. Questions? Contact Mitchell Palmquist at the diocesan office (509-624-3191 or [mitchellp@spokanediocese.org](mailto:mitchellp@spokanediocese.org)).

### EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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

# Life Together

## Belle's Barks...a Column by Miss Erica's Service Dog



Happy Easter season, friends! Of all of the seasons of the church, I think Easter is my favorite! There's so much to keep me busy as I run around all kinds of grassy spaces searching for Easter eggs full of treats. Erica says it's important to remember to count our blessings and that the BEST blessing of all is the one that God gave us through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Speaking of blessings, it has been a joy for us to get to know all of you! All of the treats and the scratches are lovely, but none of them are as wonderful as the conversations that I get to listen in on as Erica gets to know all of you. Thank you for giving us grace when we forget your name, patience when I sit on your feet, and the pure joy of playing with your children each week.

All y'all have some INCREDIBLE children! Charlotte, Hannah and Luke picked up folding palm fronds from Mr. Mike in record time! They made it look so easy and Mr. Mike was a fantastic teacher...even if Miss Erica never managed to figure it out. One of our friends even gave us a lesson in worshipful twirling that day! It was so much fun moving our bodies in meaningful ways, even if twirling does make me a little dizzy.

One of the best parts of being a dog is sitting back and watching the beauty of the world unfold around me. Perhaps that's why I'm always the first to notice Erica's tulips blooming (I like to pick them while she isn't looking and surprise Mom by hiding those blooms all over the house) and the birds returning to their favorite roosting places in the yard. More importantly, it's why I noticed how much my mom appreciated Miss Barbara taking the time to sort and organize the Children's Chapel supplies. It's such a blessing to be able to find exactly what we need when we need it! It's an even bigger blessing than she knows because Erica is horrible at organizing stuff. Thank you so much for your hard work! And we can't forget the ladies that so sweetly stuffed the Easter Eggs for our kiddos to find at this year's Easter Egg hunt.

There are lots of great things ahead for our kiddos as we explore God's creation during this season of renewal and rebirth. We're looking ahead to some baptisms, a field trip to Cataldo to explore our regional spiritual roots, and some new ministry opportunities working with the littles in our community. God is reaching out to our neighbors, and we get to be the hands and hearts at work in the world.

Until next month lots of love and puppy kisses!

Belle (and Erica)

## Camp Cross Registration Open

Camp Cross registration is now open! Many of St. Luke's youth — and adults — have experienced the peace and wonder of Camp Cross for more than 100 years.



Labor of Love sessions for adults and youth will be held in May. Summer sessions kick off with Leaders in Training and Women's/Men's Weekend in late June. Six youth sessions, including will take place throughout the summer for kids entering second through twelfth grades. There will also be sessions for young adults (19-29), families, and the third annual Queer Camp.

For information about sessions and to register, visit <https://campcross.campbrainregistration.com/?returnUrl=%252FLanding>. Financial assistance may be available. Please contact the parish office to inquire.



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



# Life Together

## Building Bridges: Healing Divides Update



BUILDING BRIDGES:  
HEALING DIVIDES

As we reported last month, we received a second \$5,000 grant from our Diocese for at least two more ministry experiments in our Building Bridges: Healing Divides program. Our first event was on March 24 with Braver Angels, North Idaho College's Cardinal Reads Program, and St. Luke's.

By way of background, each year the Cardinal Reads program at NIC picks one book for staff, faculty, administration and students to read together. Then there are events to explore learnings from the jointly read book.

This year, to continue our partnership with NIC, St. Luke's parishioners and staff also read the same book and conducted several book study groups to discuss the book. The book is *I Never Thought of It That Way: How to Have Fearlessly Curious Conversations in Dangerously Divided Times*, by Monica Guzmán.

To offer the first joint discussion session, St. Luke's hosted the Braver Angels organization and folks from NIC to discuss new skills in having curious conversations without them devolving into arguments. The session offered both Braver Angel's training on depolarizing conversations peppered with quotes from the Monica Guzmán book that offered similar thoughts.

The parish hall was packed with people attending from NIC, St. Luke's and the wider community. Each table had opportunities to practice what was being taught using a test scenario to form the conversation and to share some of their own stories and experiences. There was also sharing with the whole audience.

Comments after the event were favorable, with many saying they would love to attend other sessions like this one. Many indicated that they hoped to use these new skills in conversation soon.

The NIC faculty and staff leading this Braver Angels partnership with St. Luke's expressed gratitude and eagerness to continue such experiences and opportunities with us.

Fr. David offered these thoughts on our important work with NIC:

An important message from all our events with NIC is that they would not have happened without first seeking and developing relationships. As a church community, we are very good at offering generous hospitality and hosting lively events. But these events are only as successful as the relationships we have fostered with the people we are seeking to invite and support. Our conversations with people in the wider community are the sparks and the lifeblood of our ministry, our place here in North Idaho. We are now known in many circles at NIC as the church that cares because we have connected with people in different departments. As we get to know people, new opportunities emerge. Our connections and events with NIC's Center for New Directions grew out of initial conversations with people leading that program. Our collaboration with faculty and staff to host the Braver Angels training grew out of conversations with faculty members and school leaders during and after the years of difficulty. Each event becomes an opportunity for new conversation and discovery.

We want to continue building relationships with people at NIC. Fr. David is looking for a few good companions for this important art of conversation. To help support this work, he may directly ask you to help. But if you already know you have a knack for connecting with people and enjoy building community, let Fr. David know!

Your Building Bridges: Healing Divides Team

Fr. David Gortner, Lyndi Phifer, Dave Phifer, Fr. David Owren & Kristin Keyes

# Life Together

## Janet & Ian Hicks Renew Wedding Vows on 50th Anniversary

Parishioners Janet & Ian Hicks celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Sunday, April 26, with a renewal of vows and lovely coffee hour brunch. Janet and Ian shared: "We wish to thank everyone for their kind wishes in joining us for our very special celebration and renewal of our vows. We so enjoy being part of this wonderful St. Luke's community."



## Scenes from St. Luke's

The last couple of months were BUSY at St. Luke's! From the Braver Angels training to Holy Week, to the Easter Egg Hunt, baptisms and a renewal of wedding vows, learning and celebrations abounded!



Fifty-four people from St. Luke's and the community attended the Braver Angels training on March 24.



St. Luke's kids enjoyed the Easter Egg Hunt on April 19.



Brian & Benjamin Watkins. Benjamin was baptized on April 19.



Left: RuthAnne McKahan on March 22.

Right: Liturgical dancers RuthAnne McKahan, Ariana Yahweh & Lyndi Phifer at the Easter Vigil service on April 4.



Left: Julie & Debbie Lane with Juliette Doudna. Juliette was baptized on April 19.



Right: Julie Lane & Dustin Doudna with their children Juliette & Vincent.

# Life Together

## ST. MARY'S ALTAR GUILD

We thank everyone who donated to Altar Guild for Easter. Your gifts allowed us to purchase the beautiful Easter flowers and will enable us to provide for the Eucharist and other needs during the coming months. Thank you for your generous gifts.



In love and service,

*Debbie Lane & Annette Knapp, Co-Directresses*

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Kristin Keyes & Kari Romeo	In memory of Sandra Keyes, Roy Keyes, and Arthur Keyes
Marilyn Otto	In memory of my parents, D.O. & Fern Wright
Gayne & Jo Clifford	In memory of Albert & Jane Clifford, John & Audrey Magura, and Mike Magura
Rod Kalberg	In memory of Donna Kalberg and Bob Kalberg
Roberta Bozarth	In memory of Harold Bozarth
David & Lynnette St. Amand	In thanksgiving for the marriage of Matt and Song
Cary Miller	In thanksgiving for many blessings
Mary Beth Jorgensen	In memory of Deacon Bob Runkle, Janice Werst, and Peggy Curlin
Christopher Wigley	In memory of my parents, Adrienne B. Pizana & Herbert N. Wigley
Lumarie Lovey	In memory of my family
Andrea Partington	In memory of Andrea Seatz, O.H. & G.K. Seatz, J.C. & E.V. Partington, C.A. & R.L. Partington
Kara & Bill Kral	In thanksgiving for Alyson and Kimberly families
Nancy Wright	In memory of David Wright
Bill & Rita Leinweber	In memory of both of our parents, Mr. & Mrs. R.J. Gatlin and Mr. & Mrs. William Leinweber
John & Glenda Empsall	In memory of those we love but see no more
Gwen Letson	In memory of my sister, Peggy Goodwin
The Dolan Family	In memory of David, Angela & Sarah Francis and Bob & Joanne Dolan
Al & Janet Anderson	In memory of family members & friends
Mary Robinette	In honor of Family Promise
Dianne Pratt	In memory of William & Bethene Larson and Christine Biggs
Jeff & Annette Knapp	In memory of Albert & Marilyn Wasem and David Knapp
Jean Imperatrice	In memory of Robert Imperatrice and in thanksgiving for my St. Luke's choir family
Robin Rutherford	In memory of Ed & Ann Ritz and Donna & Milli
C.P. Lund	In memory of Gloria Lund

# Life Together

## St. Mary's Altar Guild Needs Your Help!

Our passion statement:

Quietly serving Christ while caring for the beauty of the Sanctuary.

The Altar Guild needs additional assistance for 8 a.m. services. Help is on a rotating monthly basis and training is provided. Interested in helping? Please contact Debbie Lane (208-691-7428).



In love and service,

*Debbie Lane & Annette Knapp, Co-Directresses*

## Collect Your Treasures for the Treasure Trove!



As a reminder as you clean your cupboards, closets and garages throughout the year, the Snowflake Faire Treasure Trove can use your gently used items. Please save those items to be sold at the Snowflake Faire in November.

What sells well? Décor items (especially holiday décor), jewelry, household goods, collectibles, etc. However, electronics, furniture or damaged items rarely sell so please donate them elsewhere. NO CLOTHING, please.

*Andrea Partington, Debbie Lane and Kara Kral*

## Coffee Hour Hosts Needed

Do you enjoy coffee hour? There are several openings in May and June for the 10 o'clock coffee hour. Maybe you are new to church or haven't hosted lately, but could you do it at least once a year? If so, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. The food doesn't have to be fancy — store-bought cookies and the like are just fine. When it's your turn, plan for about 40 people and feel free to use any food in the fridge left over from a church event.



Direct any questions to Barbara Webb (208-651-2405). And if you are new, Barbara can find someone to help you in the kitchen your first time. Instructions are posted on the kitchen bulletin board. Many thanks!!

# Engaging Community

## Reverse Offering



April's reverse offering items were delivered to Rathdrum Food Bank. The offering included a large number of items that were collected at the April 2 Maundy Thursday service.

May's offering will go to the St. Vincent de Paul's 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. Thank you for any support you can give. If you have questions or would like to help with delivery, contact Barbara Webb (208-651-2405).

# Engaging Community

## North Idaho Reads 1 Million Pages Reading Challenge

The "North Idaho Reads 1 Million Pages" reading challenge is a free, six-month, community-wide literacy event sponsored by the Literacy Project of North Idaho (LPNI) inviting individuals, families, schools, businesses, churches, and all groups across North Idaho to collectively read and track 1 million pages. Communities throughout the region will work both collaboratively and competitively to log pages read now through August 31.



This project seeks to raise awareness about low literacy, provide connection through reading, reduce stigma, and support long-term literacy efforts. Audiobooks do not count for this challenge as this challenge intentionally focuses on the ability to read and process words on a page, whether that be a magazine, book, Kindle or iPad.

Click the "Sign Up Here" button on the LPNI website (<https://www.theliteracyprojectni.org/reading-challenge>) to register. Contact Nicole Frens, Program Manager of the Literacy Project of North Idaho ([nicole@theliteracyprojectni.org](mailto:nicole@theliteracyprojectni.org) or 406-880-1937) with questions.

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



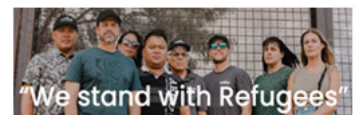
Federal grant funding for refugee resettlement programs, including Episcopal Migration Ministries (EMM), has been suspended. In addition to its long-standing work in refugee resettlement ministry, EMM is The Episcopal Church's convening place for collaboration, education and information-sharing on migration. 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://cwsqglobal.org/take-action/action-alerts/>
- Idaho Congressional Delegation: <https://legislature.idaho.gov/legislators/congressional-delegation/>

## Making a Difference: Refugee Support

St. Luke's members and groups continue to support refugees and the area agencies helping them make a good start in America.



- **Thrive International** empowers refugees and immigrants in the United States to rebuild their lives with dignity and independence. Through transitional housing and personalized support—all under one roof—Thrive helps families become self-sufficient members of their communities. Go the "Get Involved" tab on the website (<https://thriveint.org/>) to learn more.
- **World Relief Spokane.** For over 80 years, World Relief has assisted families displaced by violence, poverty and injustice – both in the U.S. and across the world. They work with interconnected solutions and wrap-around care that has true power to create lasting change. Go the "Get Involved" tab on the website (<https://worldrelief.org/spokane/>) to learn how you can make a contribution or volunteer.

You can also **submit a donation to St. Luke's** for us to pass on (put organization name in check memo line). Keep watch, and see how you can help.



**MAY 2026**

**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

**Deacon**

The Rev. Glenda Empsall  
deacon@stlukesca.org

**Lay Minister for Christian Formation**

Erica Waterman  
associate@stlukesca.org

**Parish Administrator**

DeDe Pederson  
admin@stlukesca.org

**Choir Director**

Eric Betz  
choir@stlukesca.org

**Organist**

Ty Peterson  
music@stlukesca.org

**Associate Organist**

Jeff Barnes  
music@stlukesca.org

**Newsletter Editor**

Kate Dolan  
kfd819@gmail.com

**Office Hours**

Monday-Thursday 9 a.m.– 4 p.m.

**Vestry**

**Class of 2027**

Janet Anderson  
Jean Imperatrice  
Rod Kalberg  
Christopher Wigley

**Class of 2028**

Rachel Karns  
Bill Kral  
Lauren McCroskey

**Class of 2029**

Mike Dolan  
Brooke Dunton  
Andrea Partington  
Ern Warner

Dave Phifer & Lumarie Lovey  
Andrea Partington  
Rod Kalberg & Bill Kral  
Farley Green

Co-Treasurers  
Senior Warden  
Co-Junior Wardens  
Clerk

**Sunday Service Times**

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.