



BRINGING YOU GOOD NEWS Luke 2:10

SEPTEMBER 2026

Reflections with Your Rector

While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease. (Genesis 8:22).

Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. (Galatians 6:9)



This hot and smoky summer is coming to an end, and we turn with thanks toward the fall with its many festivities. I hope that, despite heat and smoke, this summer brought you all refreshment and renewal.

Summer Thank Yous. Here's a big shout-out to our amazing facilities and grounds teams! I hope you've seen the steady transformation of our church exterior, as the aluminum siding was removed and original shiplap siding was restored by craftsman Rick Siegmund – and now, as our church members came out to prime and paint. Our garden areas are beautifully tended. Inside the church, we have a beautiful new Celtic cross on the wall behind the altar. Be sure to thank everyone involved for their time and talents.

During this same time, Erica launched our first Community Fun Night with themes of water and new life. The evening was full of joy for our families and the families from NIC's Center for New Directions. Since then, our members and leaders have been active in different community events like NAMI information sessions, ingathering of school supplies, interfaith groundbreaking events, and a trip to Cataldo Mission. Thank you, all who are committing time to this great work and other great work with our community.

Back to school! Many thanks to all of our teachers, administrators, and staff at our area schools and colleges! We hold you – and your students – in prayer. May this year be filled with joy and passion in learning, growth in character, sharing in wisdom, and warm and nurturing relationships. We are cheering for you! May you all know God's grace, guidance, and presence.

We continue to hold North Idaho College and the regional University of Idaho extensions in our prayers. We look forward to continued building of relationships with the NIC

See Rector (continued on page 2)

COMING EVENTS

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

- September 1—Women's Guild 1 p.m.; Contemplative Prayer on Zoom, 5:30 p.m.
- September 2—Confirmation at St. John's Cathedral, 7 p.m.
- September 5—Martha West memorial service, 11 a.m.; Camp Cross Retreat Center ribbon-cutting at Camp Cross, 11 a.m.
- September 8—Men's Discussion Group, 6 p.m.
- September 10—Back to School Community Night, 5:30 p.m.
- September 11-13—Music That Makes Community Retreat at Camp Cross
- September 13—Welcome Back Sunday potluck brunch, after 10 a.m. service
- September 15—Contemplative Prayer on Zoom, 5:30 p.m.
- September 16—Book groups resume, 1 & 4 p.m.
- September 17—Daughters of the King, 10:30 a.m.; Vestry meeting, 5:30 p.m.
- September 26—Diocesan Regional Gathering Day, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., St. David's, Spokane
- September 29—"Eat & Meet: A Taste of Experiencing God" community dinner, 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- September 30—Evening music and worship, 5:30 p.m.
- October 2-4—Creation Care Retreat at Camp Cross
- October 3—Barbara Campbell memorial service, 2 p.m.
- October 4—Blessing of the Animals, 10 a.m.
- October 16-18—Diocesan Convention, Pasco
- October 23—Oktoberfest at St. Luke's, 5:30 p.m.

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campus. Look for ways to get involved with our NIC-focused events and partnerships: our faculty and staff appreciation Oktoberfest, our collaboration with Braver Angels in rebuilding healthy civil discourse, our support and encouragement of single-parent families in the Center for New Directions, and our early Christmas caroling service at Fort Sherman Chapel. I want a few of us to step forward to be a **core NIC team** that commits time to getting on campus and meeting people. Relationships are the core of any ministry and outreach we do. I will be asking some of you directly to take up this important part of our work.

Welcome Back Sunday. After a bit of a summer rest, we are back at it! Sunday, September 13, will mark our own energetic return to our usual programs, events, group studies, and activities. Students and teachers of all ages should bring backpacks and briefcases for blessing during worship. And then, we begin with food! Bring a brunch goodie to share in our potluck after the 10 a.m. service. Ern Warner and I will add to the feast by providing a **“Taste of Spiritual Life”** through some practices of prayer and meditation. This will also be a time to sign up for various bible and book study groups, discussion groups, music ministries, Children’s Chapel and family ministry, and community outreach and engagement.

We are launching three new and important ways to get involved this Fall.

“Keeping Up with the Holy Spirit,” a Church-wide Bible study of the Acts of the Apostles.

Acts is our record of the beginnings of the Church after Jesus’ ascension, and of the guiding and free-flowing power of the Holy Spirit. See the piece on p. 6 of this newsletter for more information.

Monthly Evening Music and Worship, sometimes as freeform hymn-sings, and sometimes as liturgical worship services with easy-to-follow music.

These services will be for both our church and the wider community, so come and invite your friends and neighbors. Choir Director Eric Betz, Organist Ty Peterson, and parishioner Jeff Wickham will lead the services, with our choir and any other interested musicians. Our first session will be on Wednesday, September 30, at 5:30 p.m.

Community Dinners and Play Nights, also for our church and the wider community.

We are hosting our first community “Eat & Meet” dinner, “A Taste of Experiencing God,” on Tuesday, September 29. As we enjoy dinner together, Ern Warner and I will lead spiritual practices and teachings for experiencing God through our senses and our daily living. This event is for all ages.

October and November will be busy months with many points of celebration – **Blessing of the Animals and Celebration of Creation** on October 4 (St. Francis Day) at the Lane’s home, **Feast of St. Luke** celebration on October 18 (while some of us will be in the Tri-Cities for Diocesan Convention), **All Saints Day** is on Sunday, November 1 this year, and so will be a big celebration. We will also have our second evening music service on Wednesday, October 14, and the return of our NIC faculty and staff appreciation Oktoberfest on Friday, October 23. Whoo!

We have an amazing gift from a long-time church member that has made possible plans for an overhaul and renovation of our courtyard and entryways. The work will not begin until next spring, but architectural plans have already been submitted to the city and to area contractors.

See Rector (continued on page 19)

Important Announcement

Fr. David is among four candidates for possible election as Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Kansas! The three other candidates are the Rev. Grant Ambrose from Pennsylvania, the Rev. Whitney Rice from Missouri, and the Rev. Lisa Senuta from Kansas. People across the Diocese of Kansas will get to meet and greet the four candidates in mid-September, and will get to ask questions of the candidates. Representatives will elect their next bishop at their Diocesan Convention in late October. The consecration of their new bishop will happen in late April 2027. We pray for the Diocese of Kansas and all the candidates.



Fr. David has also been assigned as Chair for the Executive Council Subcommittee on Mental Health and Wellness of the Episcopal Church. This enduring subcommittee will oversee and help direct mental health ministries and educational efforts for the church.

Prayer & Worship

Birthdays & Anniversaries

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Brian Kilmer	16 Henry Lane
2 Barbara Webb	16 Heidi Stanley
5 Jim Curtis	16 Erica Waterman
5 Marty Gustafson	18 Dave Palmer
9 Flora Knadler	23 Steve Rutherford
10 David Pratt	25 Barbara Lee
12 Jo Clifford	26 Eleanor McAlpine
15 Madeline Hennig	28 Lyndi Phifer
16 Jennifer Crupper	29 Janet Anderson
16 Jane Feerer	29 Jim Miller
16 Matthew Gardner	



ANNIVERSARIES

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

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

PRAYERS

Healing and Strength: John McTear, Peggy Lembeck, Beverly Merriman, Sean Whalen, Julian Wheeler, Andre Smith, Bob Gustafson, Don Werst, Peggy O'Neal, Jo & Gayne Clifford, Hilary Caisley, Janet Crane, Martha Vilandré, Carl Vanslyke, April Miller, Scott Campbell, Henry Lane, Eric Cooper, Steve Gardner, Dan Ayers, Hal Worth, Bob West, Summer Taylor, Fran Blankenship, Sandy, Barbara Lee, Jane Gortner, Ana Torres, Wayne, Cyndi Hippler, Ginger & Ken Wright, Mike Schueller, Tom Rhoades, Peter, Katie, Doug, Dianne Dampier, Michael Webb, Phyllis Albee, Mary Ayers, John Empsall, Christopher Wigley, David Brooks, Dave & Jamie Ziegler, Ted Jordan, Jill Kalberg, Mary Kay Hanson, Gretchen Rehberg

Memorial Services & Funerals: Donna Kalberg, Howard Keller, Martha West

Repose of the Soul: Kirsten Pomerantz, Darwin Herring, Barbara Campbell

DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

September 6: **Working Groups**

For the work of the Beloved Community and Creation Care working groups, who help us put our discipleship into concrete action in our world. We also give thanks for the birthday of The Rev. Jerome Bonneville (9/9).



September 13: **Altar Guilds**

For the altar guilds of our congregations, we give thanks for all who offer their labor to prepare our congregations for worship and who do the work of cleaning afterwards. May their service be their prayer. We also give thanks for the birthdays of The Revs. Katy Shedlock (9/14) and David Hacker (9/16).

September 20: **St. Matthew's, Prosser; Regional Gathering Days**

We pray for the mission and ministry of St. Matthew's, Prosser. We also give thanks and pray for all attending the upcoming fall gathering day in each of the four regions and pray for effective communication and sharing of ideas.

September 27: **St. Michael's Episcopal Mission, Yakima**

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

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

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

Prayer & Worship

Weekday Worship Opportunities

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

Wednesdays

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



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

Adult Formation

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. Have a suggestion or idea for a book study? Contact Fr. David or Erica Waterman with your idea.

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.

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.

Room 4U Young Adult Group Will Resume in October



Room 4U will take a break in September and resume in October. Everyone is encouraged to attend “Eat & Meet: Experiencing God” on **Tuesday, September 29, from 5:30-7:30 p.m.** **Dinner will be provided.** Fr. David and Ern Warner will lead a spiritual practice after dinner where parishioners and guests of all ages can learn a few new ways to experience God through the senses. It will be really fun. Children and adults are welcome! Optional: bring a dessert to share (a dozen cookies, treats, or other sweet items).

Contact Rachel Karns (rachelkarns@gmail.com) for more information.

Adult Formation

**Confirmation at St. John's Cathedral
Wednesday, September 2, 7 p.m.**

The Episcopal Diocese of Spokane will offer a confirmation open to any on Wednesday evening, September 2, at St. John's Cathedral, Spokane. Anyone wishing to be confirmed in Christian faith in The Episcopal Church should contact Fr. David or the church office immediately.

Anyone who has been confirmed or has made a public confession of faith as a youth or adult in another Christian denomination does not need to be confirmed but can be received from their prior Christian tradition into our Christian tradition of The Episcopal Church. Anyone wishing to be received into The Episcopal Church should also contact Fr. David or the church office.

Youth Formation

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



Parents, if you have kids in 5th through 9th 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) or sign up at church! We will determine a good meeting time together.

High School Youth Pilgrimage to Hawaii!

Parishioner Reese Johnson was part of the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane's group of youth attending Episcopal Church's Province VIII youth event in Hawaii last month.

PYE was a fantastic experience. I got to meet so many amazing people, and learn so much about Hawaii's history. Every night we had a new guest speaker and got to sit and listen to them talk in the cathedral and we were enveloped in their rich history and stories. I was very blessed to go with such lovely people and to build new connections with people in my diocese and other dioceses that went. We had many fun adventures while there and got to experience this pilgrimage while still having so much fun in the process. I made so many new friends. And I am so grateful that I got the opportunity to go and experience all we did.

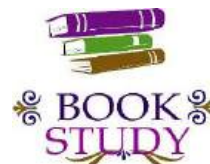
Reese is a sophomore at Lake City High School and is the daughter of parishioners Michelle & Ryan Johnson.



Learning Opportunities

Book Studies at St. Luke's

Wednesday afternoons at 1 p.m.: The group will reconvene on September 16 and will begin reading *Love Matters More* by Jared Byas, Bible scholar and podcast host of "The Bible for Normal People." This book provides stories and insights that shift our focus from collecting the "right" answers to loving others deeply and authentically. All are welcome to join. Contact Lyndi Phifer (lyndiphifer@icloud.com) or Ern Warner (ern.m.warner@gmail.com) for more information.



Wednesday afternoons at 4 p.m.: The group is in the process of choosing their next book and will reconvene on September 16. Watch the Friday Memo email for the new book selection. All are welcome! Contact Lisa Nunlist (208-640-9110 or lisanunlist@gmail.com) for more information.

If you are interested in being part of these book studies, sign up on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

Bible and Book Study groups resume in September!



Keeping Up with the Holy Spirit – A Journey through the Book of Acts of the Apostles

The Acts of the Apostles might be more accurately titled "The Acts of the Holy Spirit." The followers of Jesus were in for an adventure they never could have imagined, as the Holy Spirit led them, opening new doors and paths for sharing the good news of God's saving love. The Church was born, spoke boldly about Jesus, formed as a community and a growing movement, wrestled with its first conflicts and controversies, and figured out how to open itself to wider and wider circles of people and cultures. The energy in this book of adventures is unstoppable! Sign up at church or online!

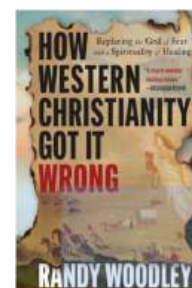
How can you participate?

1. Get a copy of *A Journey through Acts* (available online at <https://shop.forwardmovement.org/product/2481>) and begin reading Acts this way with everyone else. Books for individual reading will be available for all households.
2. Sign up for bible study, and meet weekly with your bible study group.
Men's, Women's, and Young Adult Groups – Use these resources in your meetings for discussion of Acts and of the past and current life of the Church.
3. Come to coffee-hour discussions with Fr. David beginning Sunday, September 20.

Beloved Community Zoom Book Study: Indigenous Voice of a Follower of Jesus Thursdays at 10 a.m. beginning September 17

Picture communities where creation is family, not commodity. Where healing happens through relationship, not transaction. Where Creator speaks through many voices and welcomes all who walk in love. This is the Jesus Way as it was meant to be.

In *How Western Christianity Got It Wrong: Replacing the God of Fear with a Spirituality of Healing*, author Randy Woodley, of mixed white and Native American heritage, traces how a brown man from Nazareth who never lost his connection to the whole community of creation became the poster child for empire-building and environmental destruction. Drawing on Indigenous wisdom that was flourishing on Turtle Island long before missionaries arrived, Woodley reveals what Jesus's liberating message looks like when freed from imperial frameworks.



This book study is free. Register by emailing The Rev. Rick matters at rickmatters@gmail.com.

Learning Opportunities

Iona Collaborative Courses Available to Members of the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane

The Episcopal Diocese of Spokane is a member of the Iona Collaborative, which means all members of our diocese have access to not only our diocesan Iona classes, but the wider system classes as well. The Iona Collaborative is a learning community of educators dedicated to helping local leaders and small congregations thrive by offering local formation certificates and continuing education opportunities for priests, deacons, and lay leaders, as well as spiritual direction tools and training for congregations.



Whether you're looking to deepen your ministry, explore a new area of learning, or connect with others serving in small congregations and communities, this fall semester offers opportunities for formation, renewal, and practical wisdom. Open to lay leaders, priests, and deacons, our courses welcome participants serving in a variety of ministry contexts.

Below are two Iona offerings to build skill and learning around community organizing, which may be an interesting, timely and approachable option to participate in bridging and healing through a community organizing lens.

Community Engagement Course — Mondays, 12:15-4:15 p.m. on Zoom, September 14, September 21, September 28, October 5, October 19, October 26 and a final meeting TBD in November

Using Jesus' life as a guide, this course will explore the best practices and theory of community engagement, values-centered social change, and community-based leadership.

The Diocese of New Hampshire's Iona School recently made their course in Community Engagement available to students in all the Iona schools. Meaning members of the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane have the chance to register for this course, just add "Diocese of Spokane" after your church's name on the registration form and then drop Bethany Hyndman (bethany.hyndman@iona.ssw.edu) a note to let them know you are participating.

Cost: \$200. Learn more about the course or register here: <https://www.nhepiscopal.org/school-for-ministry-dates-and-courses-202526>

Two-Day Foundations of Organizing Training — Friday & Saturday, November 20-21, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the offices of the Spokane Education Association

Community members from across Spokane are invited to a Foundations of Community Organizing 2-Day Training, led by IAF Pacific Trainers, hosted by Spokane Alliance. This event is designed to provide folks with the necessary skills and knowledge to become effective community leaders and understand the basics of broad-based community organizing.

Cost: Free to Episcopal Diocese of Spokane Members. Read more or register here: https://www.spokanealliance.org/foundations_of_organizing_training_20261120

Registration is also open now (<https://iona.ssw.edu/fall-2026-continuing-education/>) for a variety of classes this fall. Explore the courses and find the one that speaks to where God may be inviting you next.

Identity-Shaping Images of the Diaconate with (for deacons and those discerning)

Nuts & Bolts of Small Church Ministry (for any church members and leaders)

Reading and Preaching Acts as the Mission of God (a good course for preachers)

Courses created by and for the Diocese of Spokane include Theological Ethics with The Rev. Arlen Farley of St. John's Cathedral and Church History with The Rev. Kimmy Meinecke of St. David's, Spokane. Register here: <https://spokanediocese.org/ionacollaborativeprogram/>

Life Together

Vestry Highlights

JULY 9, 2026

- Approved international and local giving including gas vouchers and for allocation of endowment funds

Good Stewards: Everyone who helped at Pride in the Park and Idaho for All; people who quietly get things done such as Cary Miller and Debbie Lane; members of the choir.



AUGUST 20, 2026

- Reviewed a draft list of 2026 events and special days.
- Approved pay increases for the Choir Director, Organist, and Lay Minister for Christian Formation to reflect additional responsibilities and/or time they are spending on St. Luke's duties.

Good Stewards: Jeff and Annette Knapp for donating custom doors and the new TV; those who made the beautiful Celtic cross above the altar including The Rev. David Owren (craftsman), Bob Gustafson, Dave Palmer, and Bob Skelton (design and planning), David St. Amand and Bill Kral (mounting), and painting crew members Eric Karns, Wes Fenn, Laird Will, Jeff Knapp, and Gene Waterman.

Next meeting: The next meeting will be on Thursday, September 17, at 5:30 p.m. in the Alison Library. All are welcome to attend.

Women's Guild Meets Tuesday, September 1, 1 p.m.



Women's Guild will resume its monthly meetings on Tuesday, September 1, at 1 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The Guild is finalizing plans for the Snowflake Faire on November 14.

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 Meets Tuesday, September 8, 6 p.m.

The Men's Discussion Group monthly meetings will resume on Tuesday, September 8, at 6 p.m. in the Parish Hall. We welcome everyone back from the summer break and are looking forward to the group getting together. 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) or Ian Hicks (714-742-3412 or ianhicks@icloud.com) with any questions.

Welcome Back Potluck: Sunday, September 13, After the 10 a.m. Service



Schools will be back in session next week, folks will be back from summer vacations, and church organizations will be up and running again soon. Let's plan to celebrate on Sunday, September 13! Bring something to share (doesn't have to strictly be a breakfast item) and join your fellow St. Luke's folks after the 10 a.m. service.

A special feature is planned: "A Taste of" a contemplative prayer practice that might just enrich your spiritual life! Sponsored by the Welcoming Committee.

Life Together

Keep Up Your Pledge with a Recurring Gift

Our current giving is at about 87% of gifts anticipated this year from pledges and plate offerings. If you have pledged to St. Luke's, please remember to give across the year.

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



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 & Kara Kral

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

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed



Do you enjoy 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 Marcia Siring (360-929-1515). Instructions are posted on the kitchen bulletin board. Thanks!

Become an Acolyte

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



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

Life Together

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



Happy Back-to-School Season, Friends!

What a jam-packed summer it's been! Between Children's Chapel, Community Fun Nights, and a field trip to Cataldo, Erica and I have been having a blast playing with the kiddos! I'm so excited to be getting back into the swing of the school year routine and pray that everyone heading back to the classroom has a fantastic year!

Speaking of classrooms, we'll be celebrating the first week of school with our last Community Fun Night of the summer season. It's been so much fun enjoying the hot summer evenings playing with our friends and neighbors, and I cannot wait to enjoy them one more time before the summer officially comes to a close. If there's a better way to celebrate than a back-to-school BBQ, I certainly don't know about it yet! You don't need to bring a child to join us. We'll have plenty of them for everyone to embrace some childlike fun.

In mid-October, we'll be launching a new ministry giving Moms of Preschoolers (potty-trained 3-5-year-olds) a twice-monthly morning break to spend 2 hours on self-care. Using the Godly Play curriculum, we will be teaching the kids the story of faith, one Bible story at a time. To make this ministry successful, we need to recruit volunteers to help. If you love being in the presence of children and want to explore, enjoy, and wonder aloud about the stories of God with them, we'd love to have you volunteer! While we will be meeting 2 times a month, you don't have to commit to every gathering. (Erica says that hearing different voices is part of the experience of learning about God). You don't need special Godly Play training, but you will need to complete the Safe Church self-study online training required by the Diocese. Please get in touch with Erica (208-704-0053 or associate@stlukescd.org) or the office if you'd like to be a part of this exciting new ministry!

Because the best part of being a dog is that no one notices you noticing....

- I want to give a great big Bark Out to all of the volunteers who have helped make our summer program such a success! To all of our Children's Chapel teachers, Community Fun night volunteers, and all those who attended, thank you!!
- Two paws up to the folks who provided and installed the new TV in the chapel area. We appreciate you very much!
- Puppy Kisses to Miss Debbie for keeping the chapel full of colors and light with her tapestries and for painting a gorgeous backdrop for our first community fun night art project.
- Happy tail wags to Mike for putting together an excellent field trip to Cataldo! We learned so much about North Idaho.

Until next month, Love and Puppy Kisses,

Belle (and Erica)

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.

Life Together

Camp Cross Retreat Center Ribbon Cutting Celebration Saturday, September 5, 11 a.m.

Join us on Saturday, September 5, as we gather to dedicate and celebrate the new Camp Cross Retreat Center. This project has been years in the making, and it simply would not have been possible without the incredible generosity, prayers, and support of our diocesan community.



Whether you gave financially, prayed faithfully, volunteered your time, or cheered us on along the way, thank you! Because of you, Camp Cross now has a beautiful new retreat center that will serve generations to come as a place of rest, renewal, learning, and community. Lunch will be provided. More event details and the registration link can be found at <https://theepiscopaldioceseofspokane.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3746362>.

Music That Makes Community: Free Song Sharing Weekend Retreat at Camp Cross Friday, September 11 at 4 p.m. – Sunday, September 13, at 1 p.m.



Registration is now open for Music That Makes Community: Song Sharing Weekend Retreat! Explore how communal song-sharing can help bridge and heal our communities. Whether your congregation has a vibrant music ministry or you're simply curious about communal song-sharing, this retreat offers an opportunity to learn, sing together, and be inspired by others. No musical experience is required.

The retreat is free to attend, but space is limited, so early registration is encouraged. Register today at <https://theepiscopaldioceseofspokane.churchcenter.com/registrations/signups/3724332>.

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

The Diocesan Northeast Regional Gathering Day will be held on Saturday, September 27, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at St. David's, 7315 N. Wall St. in the Town & Country neighborhood of Spokane. Lunch will be provided.

All are invited to come share in a day of connection, conversation and community. Gatherings are focused on coming together as a learning community for fellowship, inspiration and conversation about the work of the church. Those in leadership positions are specially encouraged to participate. Convention delegates and alternates must attend.

Prayers for the New School Year

Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges, and universities – and especially North Idaho College and the Idaho University extensions here, and the public schools in Kootenai County – that they may be lively centers for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom; and grant that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth.

For students who are beginning a new school year, give them curious minds, critical thinking skills, the ability to tell right from wrong and the courage to act with integrity. Help them learn deep truths about this world and people so that they may be good citizens for the good of all.

For teachers, those brave souls who wake each morning at the crack of dawn to educate other people's children and love them like their own. It's a tough job, God; please keep them from growing weary and cynical. Wrap them in your love, your peace, your wisdom, and your goodness. Help them to see the many ways that their gifts inspire learning, creativity, and compassion. Help them to love their students and light their paths.

Life Together

Music Ministry Invitation — Festival Choir!

Hello St. Luke's! I'm here to announce an exciting new opportunity to be involved with music in our church community. I understand that, for many folks, committing to weekly rehearsals and Sunday anthems for nine months can be a lot to add to already busy schedules. To help accommodate those of us who might like to sing (or might be encouraged to sing) but can't commit to weekly choir, I'm introducing the Festival Choir!



Festival Choir would join with our regular church choir four to five times a year for special holy days. "What would this require of me?" you might ask. The regular commitment would be one rehearsal per month on the second Wednesday of each month. How reasonable!

What musical skill do I need? Only an ability to match pitch with those around you and a willingness to learn and grow. I encourage you to reach out to me regardless of your musical abilities. Many of you have given wonderful feedback on the sound of our choir this year, and I've got to say . . . you all sound great in the congregation as well! It would be a wonderful gift to be able to celebrate a few of our church holidays with your voices adding to our sound.

Thank you for considering singing in the Festival Choir. Please contact me with any questions. And if you want to be part of our regular weekly choir, you are certainly more than welcome!

Eric Betz (choir@stlukesda.org)

Festival Choir Season Schedule 2026/2027

Generally, one rehearsal per month on the second Wednesday of each month

September

Wednesday 9/9 - Rehearsal - 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

October

Wednesday 10/14 - Rehearsal - 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

November

Sunday 11/1 - **Sunday Sing! (All Saints)** - 9:15 a.m.

Wednesday 11/11 - Rehearsal - 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

December

Wednesday 12/9 - Rehearsal - 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Sunday 12/13 - **Sunday Sing! (Advent L&C)** - 9:15 a.m.

Thursday 12/24 - **Christmas Eve** - 6:45 p.m.

January

Wednesday 1/13 - Rehearsal - 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

February

Wednesday 2/10 - Rehearsal - 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

March

Wednesday 3/10 - Rehearsal - 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Wednesday 3/17 - Rehearsal - 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

*Sunday 3/21 - **Sunday Sing! (Palm Sunday)** - 9:15 a.m.*

Sunday 3/28 - **Sunday Sing! (Easter)** - 9:15 a.m.

April

Wednesday 4/14 - Rehearsal - 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

May

Wednesday 5/12 - Rehearsal - 6 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Sunday 5/16 - **Sunday Sing! (Pentecost)** - 9:15 a.m.

EDITORIAL POLICY

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

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

Life Together

St. Francis Creation Care Weekend Retreat at Camp Cross Friday, October 2 – Sunday October 4

Come join the diocesan Creation Care Working Group for a weekend that will explore St. Francis-inspired care for the natural world around us. In the beautiful and quiet environment of Camp Cross we will explore creation focused meditation through forest bathing and art, explore the natural environment of Camp Cross, plant wildflower seed around the new retreat center, worship together and enjoy the peace and quiet of camp.

The cost to attend is \$175. Register at <https://campcross.campbrainregistration.com/?returnUrl=%252FLanding>.



Mission Statement of the Creation Care Working Group:

In caring for the fullness of creation, we honor God. Our purpose is to encourage congregations in our diocese to be good stewards of God's creation through sharing of examples, experiences and education.

62nd Annual Diocesan Convention: Sing to the Lord a New Song! Friday, October 16, 2 p.m.—Sunday, October 18, noon at the Red Lion Hotel in Pasco, WA



The 62nd Annual Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Spokane will take place from Friday, October 16, at 2 p.m. through noon on Sunday, October 18, at the Red Lion Hotel in Pasco.

Watch the Friday Memo email and the October newsletter for more information about Convention speakers and activities.

For more information about convention, and to register, please visit <https://theepiscopaldioceseofspokane.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/3428811>.

New Altar Cross Blessed and Dedicated on August 30

This beautiful cross was mounted on August 18 behind the altar at St. Luke's. It was blessed and dedicated on Sunday, August 30.

Crafted from walnut and maple, this five-foot Celtic cross shares the same pattern with the crosses on our steeple and gate. We are so blessed to have skilled craftsmen deeply dedicated to Christ and to this church.

Many thanks to Bob Gustafson, Bill Skelton, and Dave Palmer for their careful design work and precise measurements, and especially to The Rev. David Owren for bringing the idea and plans to such strikingly beautiful reality.

Fr. David



L-R: David St. Amand, Fr. David Owren, Bill Kral.

Not pictured: Bob Gustafson, Bill Skelton, Dave Palmer



The cross was blessed and dedicated on August 30.

Life Together

St. Luke's Summer Community Nights Were Great Fun!

This summer Lay Minister for Christian Formation Erica Waterman and her team presented two great Community Nights for St. Luke's parishioners, neighbors, and families from NIC's Center for New Directions (CND).

On July 23 was a Community Family Fun Night called "Living Water: Open Nets & Full Hearts." Activities included water games on the lawn, crafts, and a community art project. About 40 kids, friends, and family members from St. Luke's and CND attended.

Then on August 13 was "Let Your Light Shine: Black Light & Glow in the Dark Night." Erica and her family and church volunteers transformed the parish hall into a glow-light world for an activity evening focused around the theme "You are the light of the world." Coffee hour goodies the following Sunday included cupcakes ready to be frosted with the nearly glow-in-the-dark frosting that Kristin Keyes is holding in the photo below!



Cataldo Mission Field Trip Full of Educational Fun

On Saturday, August 29, a group from St. Luke's visited Coeur d'Alene's Old Mission State Park, home to Idaho's oldest standing building, the Mission of the Sacred Heart aka Cataldo Mission. The site has a long history associated with various groups, cultures, and religious beliefs. The main story told is the coming together of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe and Jesuit Missionaries. Together they built the Mission and a self-sustaining village with minimal tools and supplies. This story is unique to Idaho and an important part of the history of the Pacific Northwest.



Mike Dolan talked about this dugout canoe, a watercraft building technique that was introduced by the missionaries (and not favored by tribe members, who preferred their traditional birch bark method).

St. Luke's Next Community Night Event: Back to School Thursday, September 10, 5:30-7:30 p.m.



Join us at St. Luke's for our third Community Night. This time we'll celebrate back to school fun with games, crafts, a community art project, and free dinner! Folks of all ages are invited to join us! Bring your friends, grandkids, neighbors — all are welcome.

See the flyer on p. 15 of this newsletter for more details.

A vibrant, cartoon-style poster for a 'Back to School Community Night'. The background is a light yellow grid. At the top, various school supplies like pencils, a ruler, and a paintbrush are illustrated. In the center, a large yellow cloud-like shape contains the text 'BACK TO SCHOOL' in bold black letters, with 'COMMUNITY NIGHT' written in a curved path below it. To the left of the central text, the word 'Free' is written in a large, cursive script. Below the main title, a list of activities is provided, followed by a description of the event's inclusivity. The location and date are listed in separate colored boxes. At the bottom, there are illustrations of a stack of books, a red alarm clock, a globe, and a pink backpack.

BACK TO SCHOOL

COMMUNITY NIGHT

WE WILL HAVE:

- GAMES
- CRAFTS
- A COMMUNITY ART PROJECT
- FREE DINNER!!!

THIS EVENT IS DESIGNED
FOR COMMUNITY
MEMBERS OF ALL AGES!
WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE
YOUR BRIGHT SHINING
FACE!

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL
PARISH HALL
501 E WALLACE
COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO

SEPTEMBER 10, 2026
5:30 - 7:30 PM

Life Together

Painting Begins on Church's Restored Original Wood Siding

In 1968, much of St. Luke's historic character disappeared when aluminum siding was applied to the chapel exterior. The new cladding, a popular fad at the time, did nothing to improve insulation and has become dented and faded. Probing revealed the original shiplap siding underneath to be in good condition. Thanks to a \$10,000 matching grant from the Idaho Heritage Trust, the metal panels were removed so the original wood siding could be restored. Part of the project included repairs to the steeple base. This exciting restoration project will preserve the original siding into the next century and return St. Luke's to its historic appearance as completed in 1892.

On August 26, repainting by hard-working parish volunteers began.

The Coeur d'Alene Press ran a great article about the restoration work on August 31.



Wes Fenn & Jeff Knapp getting to work painting the west side of the building.



Ian Hicks — one of the "usual suspects" who is always around when help is needed.



David St. Amand high atop a ladder at the northwest corner of the building.



Fr. David rolled up his shirtsleeves — and pant legs, too — to paint above the entrance to the nave.



Co-Junior Warden Bil Krall with paint tray in hand.

Eat & Meet Dinner

Tuesday, September 29, 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall

Scripture tells us that the kingdom of God is both within and among us. The deliberate effort to live the experience of God, often called mysticism, is, in a sense, living in the kingdom of God. There will be two presentations; the first will be a brief overview at the Welcome Back Sunday brunch on Sunday, September 13 (see p. 8 of this newsletter for more details). An exercise will be shared to illustrate how an ordinary item from everyday life can be transformed into a way of understanding and experiencing the divine.

A fuller presentation will be given at the September 29 "Eat & Meet: A Taste of Experiencing God" dinner, where simple, easily practiced techniques used by people throughout history to pursue the experience of God will be shared. This event is for our church and the wider community. As we enjoy dinner together, Ern Warner and Fr. David will lead spiritual practices and teachings for experiencing God through our senses and our daily living. This event is for all ages.

We hope you will join us in exploring these avenues of faith, which can lead to a fuller, richer experience of life.

The Christian Formation Committee



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



Life Together

Scenes from St. Luke's



On July 12, parishioners Sarah & Julian Wheeler celebrated their 25th anniversary by renewing their marriage vows.



Parishioner Janet Hicks is the devoted volunteer who maintains the beautiful garden beds around the church and parking lot.



Engaging Community

Reverse Offering

July's offering went to ABC (Athol-Bayview-Careywood) Food Bank. Parishioner Bill Landis delivered about 75 pounds of food and hygiene products, for which they were very grateful. Donations will be put to good use as the food bank serves about 125 people per week.



September's offering will go to 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).

School Supply Drive a Smashing Success!



Thanks to everyone who donated items or cash to our recent school supplies drive!

The Coeur d'Alene Rotary Club contributed about \$900 worth of supplies and we collected about \$1,000 in cash and supplies. The majority of items went to the Spirit Valley Food Bank, which helps families in the greater Spirit Lake area. We collected more than they needed, so the rest of the items were taken to NIC's Center For New Directions, which was especially happy to receive them because they did not receive their usual donations of supplies this year.

Isn't it nice how these things work out?

Barbara Webb

Engaging Community

Helping with Spokane Fire Relief and Recovery

Spokane needs help. We thank God for all leaders and workers who led a safe evacuation, so that there have been no human deaths from fire. But the fire completely destroyed 913 structures, over 700 of which were homes.

KREM has a great list of how and where you can give. Visit <https://www.krem.com/article/news/local/wildfire/where-to-donate-support-spokane-county-wildfires/293-fecd162a-d6ca-409c-bd01-98e0e83f4088> for their article with links. Here are a few places to make a donation (including where Bp. Gretchen suggested):

Red Cross Northwest Region

City of Spokane's H.O.M.E. Starts Here Fund

Innovia Foundation

Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington

Diocese of Spokane Disaster Relief Fund

KREM Cares Help 2 Northwest

Second Harvest Inland Northwest

Spokanimal

Episcopal Relief & Development

Third Annual NAMIWalks Coeur d'Alene

Saturday, September 19, starting at Riverstone Park, 9:30 a.m. - Noon

St. Luke's folks are cordially invited to become involved in NAMI Coeur d'Alene's third annual NAMIWalks supporting people living with mental illness and their families, friends, and loved ones. The 5K walk/run/bike/roll will take place on Saturday, September 19, at 9 a.m. at Riverstone Park. You can learn more about the walk at <https://cdanami.org/namiwalks>.



If you're interested in being a walker, putting together a team of walkers, or sponsoring or donating to the walk, visit <https://www.namiwalks.org/cda>. If you would like to volunteer on the day of the event, please send an email to namicda2021@gmail.com.

Questions? Contact NAMI CDA board members Kate Dolan (208-640-6522 or kfd819@gmail.com) or Fr. David (priest@stlukescd.org).

Chorale Coeur d'Alene — "The American Spirit: Songs of Faith & Freedom" Friday and Saturday, September 25 & 26, at the Kroc Center



With this concert Chorale Coeur d'Alene begins a season of celebration of our country's 250th anniversary, bringing quality choral song to you and our Inland Northwest region. We open our 2026-27 season with familiar and dear favorites: patriotic anthems, heartfelt hymns, and joyful spirituals, and we can't wait to share this one with you. Think: *Amazing Grace*, *Down to the River*, and *Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal*; together with *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, *God of our Fathers*, and *God Bless the USA*. You're sure to go home with thankful hearts and uplifted spirits.

There will be two performances of this concert at the Kroc Center in Coeur d'Alene at 7 p.m. on Friday, September 25, and 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 26. Individual and season tickets are available now at www.ChoraleCdA.com, with limited tickets available at the door.



Judi Horton & Tom Bacon

Engaging Community

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.

Rector, continued from page 2

While all of this is happening, I will be focused with you here and also focusing on time with the Diocese of Kansas. We who are candidates for bishop will be touring the diocese together September 14-18. It is an intense schedule, with visits to 30 congregations and ministry centers! Please pray for Heather and me, the other candidates, and that diocese during this time. The election happens at their annual diocesan convention, the week after ours — October 23-24.

This congregation is remarkably healthy and in a good place for inviting others in to taste and see the goodness of God. We continue forward in worship, learning, sharing life, and giving ourselves in love to the world around us. May we always be a community of faith where people know, celebrate, and show the overflowing, unconditional love of Jesus. Forward we go — with hymn-sings and evensong services, a new afternoon child-play dropoff, studies of Acts and the minor prophets, and discussion times for people seeking to reconstruct their faith and spiritual life.

What a great time to invite people to come to St. Luke's, as we continue to open ourselves to Christ's life-giving restoration and renewal in each of us and in all of us together as a community seeking to share God's unbounded love with people all around us! Come, let us build together.

Fr. David



SEPTEMBER 2026

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Vestry

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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.