

ACTS of ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2025



Make a difference

I see the annual report as a time capsule for those who come after us, so that it is mostly a year in review; but during the Annual Meeting, I try to use it to look forward a little bit—and so here is a summary of what I talked about at our 2025 Annual Meeting.

I shared that I often see students from Walter Johnson sitting at the picnic tables during lunch; and I saw some kids from the neighborhood there one Saturday with what I assumed was lunch from a shop in Wildwood; and one day I saw a lone student set up for a study session, the table covered with notebook and textbook, etc. We have beautiful grounds at St. Luke's, and we want to make sure our neighbors know—they are welcome here! The picnic tables do a good job of softening the boundaries between us and our neighborhood, and I think God would like that.

We hope that the daycare will be another thing that softens the boundaries of the church, that it allows for more coming and going, a way for people to experience God's welcome—but we know that it comes with cost, and that having the daycare means we can't have Sunday School in the traditional model. We've been moving towards a more intergenerational approach in the past years anyway, and church is one of the only places left in our society that is multigenerational. I hope we will embrace and celebrate that in the future, like we did with the splash park and mini golf at the beginning of summer, which were lovely events attended by people of all ages and household makeup. We have intergenerational Sunday School on November 9 at 11:15 am, when we can support our younger members' faith formation by doing faith formation alongside them.

I let the parish know that when I offer a special welcome "to anyone who might be new or visiting today" that means there is someone new or visiting. And you'll notice I say it most Sundays! That's a good day to be brave and introduce yourself to someone you don't know; just say "I'm not sure we've met" and introduce yourself. You may meet someone who has been coming to St. Luke's for 5 years, but that's good too! On days when I say that, I need to use those first 10 minutes after church to welcome those newcomers and visitors so that I can answer any questions they might have.

(Make a Difference, continued on page 6)

PARISH

November Birthdays

William Leal	1
Jim Mills	7
Kate Legates	12
George Flett	15
Andrew Metzger-Sloan	19
Jack Metzger-Sloan	19
Brenda Curtis-Heiken	21
Colleen Hermach	21
Michelle Canick	24
Mike Votaw	25
Claudia Henemyre	28

November						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						



November Special Dates

6, 7, 10 November	Office closed
11 November	Veterans' Day; Lunch Bunch
	Office closed
12 November	Retired Men's Group (online)
14 November	New Leaf Shelter dinner; Office closed
17 November	Office closed
18 November	Booklovers
27 November	Thanksgiving Day; Office closed
28 November	Office closed

December Birthdays

Larry Legates	2
Movita Hercules	3
Michele Greco	6
Anna Votaw	7
Maggie Pearson	9
Bill Casson	10
Ken Swab	12
Natalie Bergeron	15
Vonda O'Sullivan	15
Stewart Rouleau	16
John Elsbree	18
Miranda Marks	18
Tom Canick	19
Mary Dufour	23
Oliver Stewart	24
Jim Marks	26
Leslyn Thorne	26
Andi Pringle	27

December						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



December Special Dates

4, 5, 8 December	Office closed
9 December	Lunch Bunch
10 December	Retired Men's Group (online)
12 December	New Leaf Shelter Dinner
	Christmas Party setup
13 December	4 pm Christmas Party
24 December	10 am Service, in person and online
	5 pm Service, in person and online
	9 pm Service, in person and online
25 December	Christmas Day
25 December-	
1 January	Office closed

Jim Marks	26	Dan Eberly	27	Rebecca Huckabay	28
Leslyn Thorne	26	Daphne Legates	27	Lisa Secrest	29
Andi Pringle	27	Nathan Henemyre	28	Erica James	30

The ACTS is now distributed electronically using the email address that we have for you on file in the office.
 If you did not receive it, please update your email address at admin@stlukesbethesda.org.
 If you do not see your birthday listed during the year, please contact the office.

SENIOR WARDEN



Deb Marks

Thinking About St. Luke's

“Sharing time, talent, and treasure” is a time-honored expression for contributing to the well-being and mission of a church, and St. Luke’s is no exception. In addition to our parishioners’ proven generosity with sharing treasure, they are equally charitable in donating time and talent.

Often, we witness the result of freely given time and talent without seeing all the work that goes into it. For example, we admire the grounds and annual evolution of the gardens; we anticipate liturgical color changes on the altar; we appreciate the beauty of God’s creation as reflected in weekly flower arrangements; or we are spiritually touched by a choir anthem. We are all beneficiaries of each other’s donations of time and talent through all our guilds and ministries.

While some guilds and ministries help us draw closer to God, others help us draw closer to each other. We periodically gather at parishioners’ homes to socialize and share a meal; we catch up with each other and enjoy snacks post-service at coffee hour or other significant times in the church year; we recommend books to read and meet to express our reactions; we meet monthly at church to share life events and lunch, and other groups join together online.

The fact is that we *always* draw closer to God and to each other through all of St. Luke’s ministries and guilds.

During the past year, Jessica engaged St. Luke’s with EDOW’s Next Vital Steps (NVS)—the umbrella under which much of the Vestry’s outward and visible work has been done. Vestry started this process by reflecting on St. Luke’s history and progressed to focusing on the larger community of which we are a part. Since then, some of our Being a Good Neighbor actions included providing picnic tables on our grounds for public use, sharing St. Luke’s awesome sanctuary as a performance venue for a student-led high school jazz band, and hosting a neighborhood plant swap on a blissfully sunny day. These are all simple, positive extensions of our parish family with our neighborhood family.

Who knows how St. Luke’s might connect with our neighbors over the next year? A-to Z Fun Care will soon be our neighbor; three new parishioners are bringing their commitment and energy to Vestry; and St. Luke’s is a parish filled with enthusiastic, imaginative, and dedicated members.

We are on the cusp of change. Together we do the work that needs to be done, and our efforts are enhanced because we do them communally. Whenever, wherever we are gathered, God is there.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deb".

She/hers

St. Luke's Pledge Campaign

Goal: 100 Pledges & \$460,000



Make a Difference: Pledge

To pledge, visit our website (stlukesbethesda.org.)

Call the office (301-530-1800)

Email ([admin@stlukesbethesda](mailto:admin@stlukesbethesda.org))

Or use this QR code



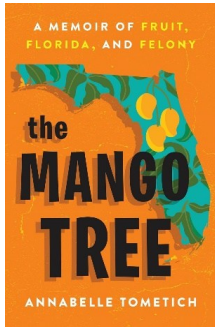
FELLOWSHIP

Booklovers

Booklovers is a group of people who love reading and discussing books. It is open to everyone! If you'd like to get on the email list, please contact Nancy Reding.

Our next meeting will take place at St. Luke's on **Tuesday, November 18, at 1 pm in Ludlum Hall.** (12:30 to share a brown bag lunch, if you'd like). We will be discussing ***The Mango Tree: A Memoir of Fruit, Florida, and Felony* by Annabelle Tometich.**

From Amazon.....



When journalist Annabelle Tometich picks up the phone one June morning, she isn't expecting a collect call from an inmate at the Lee County Jail. And when she accepts, she certainly isn't prepared to hear her mother's voice on the other end of the line. Explaining the situation to her younger siblings afterward, however, was easy. All she had to say was, "Mom shot at some guy. He was messing with her mangoes." They immediately understood. Answering the questions of the breaking-news reporter—at the same newspaper where Annabelle worked as a restaurant critic—proved more difficult. Annabelle decided to go with a variation of the truth: it was complicated.

So begins *The Mango Tree*, a poignant and deceptively entertaining memoir of growing up as a mixed-race Filipina "nobody" in suburban Florida, as Annabelle traces the roots of her upbringing—all the while reckoning with her erratic father's untimely death in a Fort Myers motel, her ambitious mother's bitter yearning for the country she left behind, and her own journey in the pursuit of belonging.

With clear-eyed compassion and piercing honesty, *The Mango Tree* is a family saga that navigates the tangled branches of Annabelle's life, from her childhood days in an overflowing house flooded by balikbayan boxes, vegetation, and juicy mangoes to her winding path from medical-school hopeful to restaurant critic. It is a love letter to her fellow Filipino Americans, her lost younger self, and the beloved fruit tree at the heart of her family. But above all it is an ode to Annabelle's hot-blooded, whip-smart mother Josefina, a woman who made a life and a home of her own, and without whom Annabelle would not have herself.

Start thinking about titles you want to read in 2026. We'll be compiling a list to vote on soon.

Happy reading!

Nancy Reding

PARISH

(Make a Difference, continued from page 1)

I know that many people in our church are struggling right now with the government shutdown, funding challenges, and unpredictability. At the Annual Meeting I let people know that they could pause or cancel their pledge if needed and that we'd be fine, and that there is a diocesan emergency fund for those affected by layoffs, furloughs, or immigration complications; and I encouraged everyone to keep looking out for each other. I also said, "It is okay to say no; it is also okay to say yes to something." This is not a time to isolate; being a part of accomplishing something could be a good antidote to feeling powerless. We all need to remember that no matter what, we are part of the body of Christ, and we have something to offer the community.

Our annual giving theme this year is "Make a difference." Simple, and very powerful. No matter what happens, we must remember we have the power and the responsibility to make a difference. God gave us work to do, gifts to offer. Helping St. Luke's make our goal of 100 pledges for the 2026 giving campaign is a concrete way that we can see ourselves making a difference. Smaller pledges are critical to our getting to that goal of 100 pledges, so don't underestimate the value of your gift.

I did mention—because I wanted it on the official record—that it is okay if the state of the world is causing you to question God or God's goodness. I can't make those doubts go away, but I can say that is normal, makes a lot of sense, and doesn't affect your status as a beloved child of God. I do hope you'll continue to talk to God—even if just yelling—but I want to remind you that God welcomes you, no matter what you believe or don't believe, no matter how angry or discouraged you may be.

The world is full of great need right now. Finding a way, no matter how small, to meet a need, is good for the spirit. These efforts are seeds of hope that take root in our souls and remind us that... love wins. As we go into these darker months, find ways, no matter how small, to make a difference, letting God's light shine through you and scatter the darkness.

Jessica

Lunch Bunch

Join us on **Tuesday, November 11**, for the November Lunch Bunch gathering. We will meet at 12 noon in Ludlum Hall and share conversation and fellowship while eating our brown bag lunches.

No speaker or designated topic is scheduled. Talk can be about church activities, fall travels, the ongoing football season, or the best way to roast a turkey. The knowledgeable attendees share lots of interesting information. What better way to spend time on a Veterans Day?!

We ask participants to remember the Bethesda Help food pantry and to bring a non-perishable item to contribute. Food insecurity is increasing, and the fall and winter holidays can be a trying time. Questions? Please contact Bill Nellist.



Bill Nellist

FELLOWSHIP

Supper Group

As Jessica mentioned in a recent sermon, St. Lukers—and **SUPPER GROUP**, in particular—love to connect over good food. Although no more potlucks have yet been scheduled for November or December (potential hosts, please contact me!), the Holidays bring other opportunities for food and fellowship: the Harvest Brunch and the All-Church Christmas Party, for example. *Please take advantage of these events.*

Let's be inspired by that firecracker, the Holy Spirit, and be drawn into the circle of God's love and remind us that hope and justice abide in the Kin-dom we seek.

And now for the good news:

All adult St. Lukers, their partners and friends, are invited to a

NEW YEAR'S DAY CELEBRATION

Thursday, January 1, 2 – 5 pm

Home of Wyman and Tine Stone

(a few blocks from St. Luke's)

Please RSVP by Monday, December 29 by contacting the Stones to ask what is needed: any kind of hors d'oeuvres/fruit/veggies OR desserts. **Please bring** what you personally would like to drink; non-alcoholic beverages will be provided.

This will be the Eighth Day of Christmas and a particularly Christian celebration of leaving the past behind and focusing on the potential positives of the new. **JOIN US!** It wouldn't be the same without YOU.

Questions? Ride? Contact Treva Miller.

Treva Miller



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



Holiday Toy & Gift Card Drive, November 16 – December 7

Small Things Matter is a local, youth-focused, award-winning, grassroots organization addressing food security in Eastern Montgomery County, serving more than 1,000 families. To make sure the children of these families are able to enjoy their holidays, St. Luke's is helping to provide **new, unwrapped toys for children ages 8+ (all genders) and \$10 gift cards (Old Navy, Starbucks, Target, etc.) for teens and tweens ages 12-17**. Items can be brought to the foyer at any time but especially during the Harvest Brunch on November 23!



Questions? Contact Marta Montoro.

Marta Montoro

Thank You from New Leaf Shelter

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We want to take a moment to thank you for your continued generosity and kindness shown to New Leaf Shelter. Your food donations have been a lifeline for the individuals we serve, helping us provide warm, nourishing meals to those facing difficult circumstances.

As the need for food assistance continues to grow, we humbly ask you for your continued support through new food donations.

Thank you for standing with us and for being a source of hope during these uncertain times. Your compassion continues to make a real difference.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Shawanna Butler

Interfaith Works Coordinator for New Leaf Shelter



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Engagement Cluster: Looking to our Future

The Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys

Doing the Work of the Modern-Day Saints in Education

” Education is the door to opportunity.” – Bishop John Thomas Walker (1925- 1989)

Honoring the first African American Bishop of the Diocese of Washington, the Bishop John T. Walker School for Boys (BWS) opened in September 2008 in southeast DC. It is a tuition-free, K-5 school whose mission is to alter the educational and social trajectories of boys of color from traditionally underserved communities, preparing them for leadership and service both within their communities and beyond. St. Luke’s has provided support to BWS since 2012.



Today, BWS is Christian community of learners that welcomes 80 scholars of all faiths and beliefs. Working in close collaboration with students, families, and supporting non-profits, BWS strives to create an environment where each boy is challenged to reach his full academic potential, receiving the structured support necessary to develop his unique gifts – the epitome of building a stronger future.

Some examples of the way BWS carries out its mission:

- Strengthening support for alumni and their continued educational success by hosting annual “BWS Alumni Weekends” and hiring staff to build relationships with Episcopal and other secondary schools.
- Providing field trips to the Spy Museum, the Anacostia Community Museum, and the Air & Space Museum—hands-on experiences that make learning fun and engaging beyond the classroom!
- Reaching the goal of over 90% of kindergarteners and 5th graders meeting math standards during the last academic year; the school also augmented reading support for 4th and 5th graders and expanded language arts instruction.
- Building community across Ward 8 through partnerships with Building Bridges DC and World Central Kitchen to celebrate fall fun at the 2025 “Taste of the Harvest,” and honoring the 30th Anniversary of the Million Man March with Union Temple Baptist Church.

The BWS story is a celebration of the creativity and brilliance of its scholars, and the courage and resilience of the many people who labored to make Bishop Walker’s work towards equity and justice come alive. We at St. Luke’s are fortunate to have been part of this most important story, and we will continue to support the BWS mission into the future.



In celebration of this partnership, **please join us on Sunday, November 2, for our All Saint’s Day observance as we welcome Dr. Angelina Arrington, Head of School, as our Guest Preacher;** she’ll share more about how BWS continues to do the work of modern-day Saints in the world.

Marta Montoro

FINANCE

FINANCE REPORT SEPTEMBER 2025

	2025 Budget	'25 Actual Thru Sept	% of '25 Budget *
REVENUE			
Offering Plate	\$ 20,000	\$ 31,244	156%
Pledge Payments	455,000	381,450	84%
Donations for Facilities	65,000	62,902	97%
Altar Flower Donations	5,700	3,896	68%
Gifts/Grants for Operations		13,772	
Miscellaneous			
Operating Revenue	\$ 545,700	\$ 493,264	90%
EXPENSES			
Compensations	\$ 403,993	\$ 314,477	78%
Church Activities	17,600	7,850	45%
Parish Operations	112,700	77,353	69%
Community Engagement	22,000	17,785	81%
Diocesan Giving	52,519	39,393	75%
Operating Expenses	608,812	456,858	75%
Surplus/(Deficit)	(63,112)	36,406	
Additional Funding – reserves	63,112	0	
	\$ 0	36,406	

Endowment Fund Balance: \$173,087

* YTD September = 75% of the year

Financial Ministry News: St. Luke's financial position is stable in the final quarter of the calendar year as we head into a new era.

If you need to be reimbursed for a purchase or need the Treasurer to pay an invoice, please send an email to the office at admin@stlukesbethesda.org and include the receipt, the amount, the purpose for the expense, and the budget account to be charged. All requests for extra money or donations by committees, individuals, or church members should have prior approval of the Vestry before solicitation.

Sandy Swab, Treasurer

CALENDAR

November 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 8:30am Worship Service (in person only) 10:00am Worship Service (in person & online) 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i>	27 8:00pm <i>Men's AA</i>	28 1:30pm <i>Fitness class</i> 7:00pm Lay Discussion Group (online)	29 11:00am Staff meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (online)	30 7:30pm Choir rehearsal	31	1 5:00pm Prayer & Conversation (in person)
2 8:30am Worship Service (in person only) 10:00am Worship Service (in person & online) 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i>	3 8:00pm <i>Men's AA</i>	4 7:00pm Lay Discussion Group (online) 7:30pm <i>Outside group</i>	5 11:00am Staff meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (online)	6 Office closed 7:30pm Choir rehearsal	7 Office closed	8 5:00pm Prayer & Conversation (in person)
9 8:30am Worship Service (in person only) 10:00am Worship Service (in person & online) 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i>	10 Office closed 7:00pm Finance meeting 8:00pm <i>Men's AA</i>	11 Veterans' Day Office closed 12:00pm Lunch Bunch 1:30pm <i>Fitness class</i> 7:00pm Lay Discussion Group (online)	12 10:30am Retired Men's Group (online) 11:00am Staff meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (online) 7:00pm <i>Wildwood</i> <i>Manor HOA</i>	13 7:30pm Choir rehearsal	14 <i>New Leaf</i> <i>Shelter</i> <i>Dinner</i> Office closed	15 5:00pm Prayer & Conversation (in person)
16 8:30am Worship Service (in person only) 10:00am Worship Service (in person & online) 1:00pm <i>Outside group</i> 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i>	17 Office closed 8:00pm <i>Men's AA</i>	18 1:00pm Booklovers 2:30pm <i>Fitness class</i> 7:00pm Lay Discussion Group (online) 7:00pm Vestry meeting	19 11:00am Staff meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (online) 7:30pm <i>Girl Scouts</i> <i>leader meeting</i>	20 7:30pm Choir rehearsal	21	22 3:00pm Steve Jacoby Memorial Service 5:00pm Prayer & Conversation (in person)
23 8:30am Worship Service (in person only) 9:15am Harvest Brunch 10:00am Worship Service (in person & online) 11:00am Harvest Brunch II 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i>	24 8:00pm <i>Men's AA</i>	25 1:30pm <i>Fitness class</i>	26 11:00am Staff meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (online)	27 Thanksgiving Day Office closed	28 Office closed	29
30 8:30am Worship Service (in person only) 10:00am Worship Service (in person & online) 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i>	1 8:00pm <i>Men's AA</i>	2 1:30pm <i>Fitness class</i> 7:30pm <i>Outside group</i>	3 11:00am Staff meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (online)	4 Office closed 7:30pm Choir rehearsal	5 Office closed 5:00pm <i>Outside</i> <i>group</i>	6 5:00pm Prayer & Conversation (in person)

For up-to-date Calendar information, go to stlukesbethesda.org, click on Calendar.

CALENDAR

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 8:30am Worship Service (in person only) 10:00am Worship Service (in person & online) 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i>	1 8:00pm <i>Men's AA</i>	2 1:30pm <i>Fitness class</i> 7:30pm <i>Outside group</i>	3 11:00am Staff meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (online)	4 Office closed 7:30pm Choir rehearsal	5 Office closed 5:00pm <i>Outside group</i>	6 5:00pm Prayer & Conversation (in person)
7 8:30am Worship Service (in person only) 10:00am Worship Service (in person & online) 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i>	8 Office closed 7:00pm Finance meeting 8:00pm <i>Men's AA</i>	9 12:00pm Lunch Bunch 1:30pm <i>Fitness class</i>	10 10:30am Retired Men's Group (online) 11:00am Staff meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (online) 7:30pm <i>Girl Scouts leader meeting</i>	11 7:30pm Choir rehearsal	12 <i>New Leaf Shelter Dinner</i> Christmas Party setup	13 4:00pm Christmas Party
14 8:30am Worship Service (in person only) 10:00am Worship Service (in person & online) 1:00pm <i>Outside group</i> 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i>	15 8:00pm <i>Men's AA</i>	16 1:30pm <i>Fitness class</i> 7:00pm Vestry meeting	17 11:00am Staff meeting 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (online)	18 7:30pm Choir rehearsal	19	20 10:00 am <i>Outside group</i> 5:00pm Prayer & Conversation (in person)
21 8:30am Worship Service (in person only) 10:00am Worship Service (in person & online) 11:00am Greening of the sanctuary 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i>	22 8:00pm <i>Men's AA</i>	23	24 10:00am Christmas Eve Service (in person & online) 5:00pm Christmas Eve Service (in person & online) 9:00pm Christmas Eve Service (in person & online)	25 Christmas Day Office closed	26 Office closed	27 5:00pm Prayer & Conversation (in person)
28 8:30am Worship Service (in person only) 10:00am Worship Service (in person & online) 8:30pm <i>Youth AA</i>	29 Office closed 8:00pm <i>Men's AA</i>	30 Office closed	31 Office closed 12:00pm Noonday Prayer (online)	1 New Year's Day Office closed 2:00 pm Supper Group Open House at the Stones'	2	3 5:00pm Prayer & Conversation (in person)

For up-to-date Calendar information, go to stlukesbethesda.org, click on Calendar.



*Join fellow St. Lukers in celebrating the season and
giving thanks at our*

Harvest Brunch

*Sunday, November 23, at 9:15 am in Ludlum Hall,
and continuing after the 10 am service*

~ Food & beverages will be provided ~

*If you are able, please bring a toy or gift card to the
foyer in support of the*

Small Things Matter Holiday Toy Drive.

Thank you!



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Trinity Parish

6030 Grosvenor Lane

Bethesda, Maryland 20814-1852

Phone: 301-530-1800

email: admin@stlukesbethesda.org

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The Rev. Jessica K. Hitchcock

Rector

email: jessica@stlukesbethesda.org

ACTS of St. Luke's

Newsletter for members and friends of St. Luke's;
published monthly, except January & July.

ACTS Articles Deadline:

15th of the preceding month