



THE VIEW

Mission Statement: God calls us to be a community in Christ and to be Christ to the world.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 2017

Valedictory

I am writing this farewell article on October 31st, the 500th anniversary of the exact day the Protestant reformer, Martin Luther, posted his 95 theses on the doors of the church in Wittenberg. The effects of the theses became evident in at least two ways: it led to the Protestant Reformation and it got Luther excommunicated from the Roman Catholic Church! As I think of this great churchman, I recall one of his sentences: "Here I stand, I can do no other!"

St. Luke's on the Lake has always had a place to stand, and here, I am not referring to the cliff overlooking Lake Travis. The place we stand is well-articulated by the phrase from Jude 3, the "faith that was once for all delivered to the saints." It is why we, from the days when Fr. Malcolm Riker celebrated the Eucharist on a Sunday afternoon with a few parishioners in a nearby bait house, describe ourselves as traditional, orthodox, and evangelical. St. Luke's is grounded in the Gospel, expressed in the rich tradition of our Prayer Book, and lived out in a robust, forward thinking approach to formation, vocation and spirituality. Here we stand, and because of that the parish has avoided the tides of culture and change. Other congregations and church institutions have not survived the conflicts as well as we have because, I truly believe, of our faith in God's Providence. We have been plagued from the outset by financial challenges and in more recent times, losses in membership caused by a theological revisionism in our denomination. Nevertheless, St. Luke's has prevailed, and continues to function well. We are very excited about some new directions in youth ministry and fellowship. The Vestry and Staff are planning for an exciting year in 2018, and I bid your support of these two key groups in the parish. Let me say clearly: the Austin church landscape needs this spot on the cliff overlooking Lake Travis.

As I mentioned in my letter of October 9th, I will retire soon. My last Sunday with you will be January 7, 2018. As Martha and I prepare for this day, both the morning worship services and the celebration that afternoon, we are grateful. I have enjoyed being the rector of St. Luke's on the Lake. This parish has given me more than I could have asked or imagined. I wish to give thanks to God and to you for several particular things: the honor and privilege to be present during times of crisis and loss; the platform for me to develop as a teacher and preacher; and, the rich and deep relationships that have developed over the 13 years I have been here.

It is time for St. Luke's on the Lake to call its fourth rector. Plans are also being made to call an Interim Rector, with the intent for this priest to begin on January 14th. Diocesan protocols will not allow for Fr. Mark to be a candidate for either the Interim Rector or the rector who will

succeed me. The Vestry will call the Interim Rector, and later, will employ a Search Committee, made up of parishioners, to begin the process of making the choice for your next rector. The Search Committee will update and report to the Vestry. I will not be involved in this work. In the New Year, the Vestry will articulate all the next steps as it relates to the Search Committee – its membership and purpose, a survey and the creation of a profile, congregational meetings and seasonal reports. There will be an opportunity for anyone to submit to the committee the names of Episcopal clergy who you know and believe would serve faithfully this congregation. These are just a few of the opportunities the entire congregation will have in participating in the search. Please be patient with this process, and respect the confidential nature of this committee. Of course, the most important role everyone will have is prayer. And, know that I will be praying for you, including praying with the expectation that God will call the right leader to be your next rector. I encourage you to remember always the golden rule of leadership: if you want the leader to succeed, you will need to follow him (or her).

The next rector you call will be a priest who will have ability, integrity and devotion to you and to our Lord. I am certain of this because St. Luke's on the Lake will be picky! His or her initial years will include some strategic work, which is very standard when a new leader arrives. Like the detailed work we did in creating a master plan with Heimsath Architects many years ago, any new strategy will lead to a much needed capital campaign. St. Luke's on the Lake will want to prepare for this opportunity. In God's perfect timing, you will be given the chance to provide for the future generations of those who call St. Luke's on the Lake their spiritual home. When this opportunity comes your way, seize it with a grateful heart. I am convinced that the best days for St. Luke's on the Lake are still to come.

I also mentioned in my letter of October 9th, that priest and people need to do the necessary work of leave-taking. In serving four parishes in my thirty-year priesthood, I have discovered a cherished dimension of ministry. We carry one another, we teach one another, we play with one another, we cry with one another, and we leave one another. Indeed, these past few weeks (and I hope in the weeks to come), I have been so blessed by visits, phone calls, emails, and letters. These generous leave-taking "conversations" will be a major part of my memory of St. Luke's on the Lake.

Martha joins me as we say "thank you," "God bless you," and "good-bye."

Mike +

ST. LUKE'S

**Breakfast With
Santa at St. Luke's**
Saturday, December 2nd
9:00 AM - 12 Noon, Fellowship Hall



Come enjoy a delicious pancake breakfast cooked by the Men of St. Luke's, take a photo with Santa, make some children's Christmas crafts and watch our Youth perform at 10:30 AM. Buy some hand-made items and home-made treats at the Women's Mini-Bazaar too! Click on the website banner at the St. Luke's website to purchase breakfast tickets online, or purchase at the door. Breakfast tickets are \$5 each for adults, \$4 each for children. Contact Barbara Frazell, 512-266-2455, bfracell@stlukesonthelake.org for more information, or to contribute items for the Mini-Bazaar.

**Advent Lessons and Carols,
December 17th, 9:00 AM**



On Sunday, December 17, the Third Sunday of Advent, at the 9:00 AM worship service, the Choir will lead us in a selection of nine scripture readings and anthems or hymns. It is a beautiful service, and aids our preparation for Christmas. As the Bidding Prayer opens, "...in this season of Advent, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem..." Our Choir, Don Grantham and David Thoresen prepare for this special event in a busy time of the year, and we are grateful.

**Special December Worship
Service Schedule**



On **Sunday, December 24**, we will observe the **Fourth Sunday of Advent** with one worship service at 10:00 AM including music led by our organist, David Thoresen.

That evening in observance of **Christmas Eve**, our worship service will follow the schedule of past years. We will have a Children's Service at **4:00 PM**, which will be a service of Holy Communion and will feature the Christmas Pageant and a brief Children's homily. We will sing Christmas carols and have a piano accompaniment. Our second service, at **6:00 PM**, will be the service of Holy Eucharist and Sermon. The Christmas music will be led by our Contemporary Music Ensemble. Finally, at **10:00 PM**, the third service - the Holy Eucharist and Sermon - will be led, musically, by our Adult Choir, with organ as the primary instrument.

On **Monday, Christmas Day**, our one service will be at **10:00 AM**. This traditional service (Rite One) will be the Holy Eucharist, with a sermon. Christmas hymns and special music by Nate Mayfield (trumpet) are part of this liturgy.

On **Sunday, December 31**, (the First Sunday of Christmas), we will also have one service - at **10:00 AM**. Our organist, David Thoresen, will lead us in Christmas hymns. The liturgy will be the Holy Eucharist, Rite Two.

The **regular worship schedule** will return on **Sunday, January 7th**. A brief reminder about these special services: we will be visited by guests, seekers, out-of-towners, and several who worship with us once or twice a year. Let us be prepared and quick to greet everyone. So, if you see a person you have never seen before, introduce yourself and offer any assistance if you notice they are struggling with a prayer book or hymnal. It is important to offer Christian hospitality to those who are not familiar with worship at our church. Thank you!

**Jesus' Birthday Party,
December 17th**



An inter-generational event for many years at St. Luke's is "Jesus' Birthday Party," hosted by our Children's Ministries. This year, the party will be on Sunday, December 17, in the Fellowship Hall, from 10:15 to 11:15 AM. Special foods and craft events take place for the entire family to enjoy (see more details on page 4).

**A Christmas
Blessing**



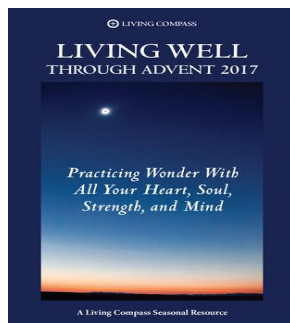
*"May the God of hope
fill you with all joy
and
peace in believing, so
that you may abound
in
hope by the power of
the
Holy Spirit"
- Romans 15:13*

*Blessings from the Clergy
and Office Staff*

ST. LUKE'S AND GROUPS

Living Well Through Advent 2017

We are moving into the season of Advent. I hope you will join us in a serious time of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Part of the offering this year, in addition to the many other advent resources that will be available, will be the booklet "Living Well Through Advent 2017" from Living Compass. This guide can be used as a daily reflection for experiencing a deeper experience of the Advent season. We are inviting you to practice wonder with all your heart, soul, strength, and mind. Please feel free to take one of these booklets for yourself and a few to give to friends.



May God's Grace and Peace be with you this season,
The Rev. Mark Chambers

EYC Youth Update



My first few months here at St. Luke's have been incredible. Thank you for your warmth, kindness and for accepting me into your church family! I am especially enjoying the staff who do an amazing job loving God and loving their neighbor, even this new neighbor!

EYC is off to a great start with lots of kids showing up every Sunday night ready for anything. With a new ping pong table donated by the fine men of MOSL, a newly uncovered Brunswick pool table, and a sweet foosball table donated by the Perkins' family, we have created an incredible environment for middle and high schoolers to hang out. Every Sunday night, they have time to play, relax and then enjoy a great meal (thank you Susan and Scott Grant!), and then for the second half of our evening we come together for group singing, laughing, games, a practical, brief, biblical message and small group discussion.

Mission trips are locked and loaded with 31 middle and high school students already registered. The middle school is going to the Houston area to help with disaster relief, and high school is traveling all the way to Pine Ridge, South Dakota to one of the poorest reservations in the country. We can't wait to see what kind of impact our students will have in these areas, and how these mission trips will impact their own personal faith.

For December I can't wait to see our middle school puppet show at Breakfast with Santa on Saturday morning, December 2nd as they do a Christmas version of Queen's Bohemian Rhapsody. We have a few other events happening in December...

Sunday, Dec 3rd - EYC 5-7pm Regular Sunday night Youth Group

Sunday, Dec 17th - EYC Christmas Party!! 5-7pm. Do NOT miss this incredible night to celebrate together with Christmas movies (Elf), white elephant gift exchange, Christmas cookies, hot chocolate and more!

Save the date!
January 7, 2018
3:00 PM – 5:00 PM
St. Luke's on the Lake
Fellowship Hall

Open House
Honoring
Fr. Mike & Martha Wyckoff
Upon his Retirement

Martha Guild

Martha Guild is currently studying a book entitled *Jesus Among Other Gods: The Absolute Claims of the Christian Message* by Ravi Zacharias.

The December meeting is scheduled for the 16th at 9:30 at the home of Carol Weed at 12121 Grey Fawn Path, Austin, Texas 78750, (512)995-1611.

The January meeting will be on the 13th at 9:30 at the home of Robin Solis at 1500 Deer Run, Cedar Park, TX 78613, (512)258-5940.

St. Margaret/St. Ann Guild

St. Margaret/St. Ann Guild will meet at 10 a.m. Tuesday, December 12, at the home of Martha Schleicher, 1505 Ridgecrest Drive. Visitors and guests are warmly welcomed! For more information, please call Robbie Jurek, 512-266-1416.

St. Luke's Study Guild

St. Luke's Study Guild will meet on Tuesday, December 5 in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 for refreshments followed by their Christmas program in the Choir Room. Guests are always welcome! Contact Marilyn Zwicker (512) 659-3980 or marilynzwickergmail.com for more information.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES



What do Abraham and Sarah have to do with Christmas??

“Great CHRISTMAS/ADVENT rotation, Ms. LoriAnn. For Elementary, no less.” Said no one, to hearing that we would be covering Old Testament characters instead of the Reason for the Season. I assure you that I have not completely lost track of where we are in the liturgical year. Just take a moment to WONDER:

- Jesus’ story did not actually start when he was born. **John 1:1/ Genesis 1:1**

- Jesus’ birth was part of many prophecies from the Old Testament. **Isaiah 9:6**

- Jesus was the facilitator for the fulfillment of the Law. **Matthew 5:17**

- Jesus was a descendant of Abraham. **Matthew 1:1**

We will discover that because Abraham answered God’s call to serve Him, Jesus would be born. But the faithful life of Abraham is the real Reason for the Season. We are called to be part of the SAME Gospel story that started way back then. Just like Abraham & Sarah, we are called to leave what is comfortable and safe. We are Called to Serve, and sometimes, we may not understand the whole picture or the reasons. But God knows the reasons. And that has to be enough. Just like it was for Abraham as he and Sarah waited on a different miraculous birth.

So, I hope to see you all this month. Amen.

Take a Deep Breath . . .

Advent Materials continue to be available through December 17th. Take what you need, as everything is absolutely free! But please, as you feel led, leave a small love donation to defray our costs. Don’t have any idea what I am talking about? During

the Advent Season of the Church, we provide devotionals, advent wreaths, and advent candles for our parishioners to use as they individually (or as a family) prepare their heart, mind, and house for the new baby Jesus. We have all different varieties from which to choose. These are located in the Narthex between the two glass entry doors.

December 2nd – Breakfast with Santa. Be sure to invite your friends and join us on Saturday morning from 9am – noon for MOSL Pancakes, EYC Puppetry, CFM Crafts, homemade treats and crafts for sale and of course, Santa! You don’t want to miss this much loved tradition here at St. Luke’s. Contact LoriAnn at lalavallee@stlukesonthelake.org if you would like to help with CFM crafts and face painting.

December 17th – Lessons & Carols. During the 9am service of Lessons and Carols, all children are invited to Big Room Riker, where Rite K will have a special interactive Nativity service and activities. (The 11:30am service will proceed as usual, with Rite K as usual.) As there is no communion at this 9am service, we will keep the children in Rite K the entire time and we will even escort them to the Parish Hall where parents can join us for . . .

December 17th - Jesus’ Birthday Party! Please plan for the entire family (and anyone else you can grab) to join us in the Parish Hall at 10:15am (following the 9am service) for our Intergenerational Event featuring an hour of fellowship, food, fun and a special presentation. We will show off some special Rite K Live songs and sing Happy Birthday to Jesus! This is our 10th Annual gathering of this event. You don’t want to miss it! Cupcakes (including gluten free) WILL be served. Because a party without cake is just a meeting (per Julia Child).

December 17th – Pre-EYC will celebrate with a Christmas Party from 5-7pm in Big Room; all 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders are invited. Watch the Cliff Notes weekly e-letter for specific details as we get closer.

December 24th – Please plan to join us on December 24th, Christmas Eve, for our **annual Christmas**

Pageant and Children’s Service at 4pm. We invite all children, preschool through 5th grade, to be part of the service. With angels and shepherds and animals to choose from, your child will be part of the story of the Nativity as we read the Gospel rendering of Jesus’ birth and sing traditional hymns in accompaniment – no reading, reciting or acting is required! Our 4/5th grade boy and girl with the best attendance will be our Mary and Joseph: can’t wait to see who it is! We will have costumes available beginning December 10th, in the Parish Hall. And if you plan on having your child walk in the “pageant” that evening, please have them in the Parish Hall by 3:25pm. You will want to come early to get a good seat up front anyway! (Psst: and remember we always see a special visitor, don’t we?)

The morning of December 24th and 31st we will have no Sunday School or Rite K. I know. It’s a bummer. But even Children’s ministers need a break. Not to worry though, as we will get back into the swing of things on January 7th!

Speaking of Epiphany, January 7th will mark our pre-Epiphany procession of the Magi! As is our tradition, our youth and older elementary students will represent Mary, Joseph and the “three magi/kings,” processing in (and out again) at the beginning of each of the 9am and 11:30am services. Please encourage your children to accept this opportunity to be King/Queen for the Day, as the time investment is very short and there are no speaking parts.

Exhale . . . and Smile!

Please remember those who are not as fortunate as us. Children and Family Ministries provides several very easy avenues to bless someone else this Christmas Season:

Rite K Contributions - Parents, please remind your children to bring an offering to Rite K. This is not just a Christmas season thing – we have Rite K all year long! And yes, this is one of those “teach by doing” moments. St. Luke’s supports many organizations which are always in need of canned goods and other non-perishables. Imagine how

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRIES AND MISSIONS

Continued from page 4

big a basket we would need if everyone brought one box of pancake mix each week.

Angel Tree – Look for that small purple tree in the Parish Hall or outside the Riker Kitchen. This year, we are again looking for small donations to be specifically used in children's ministry: simple games, books, or monetary donations. We plan to use these donations to support our relief efforts attended by the Middle and High School mission trips; they often minister to kids in their work during the summer.

As you do your Christmas shopping: If you use Amazon for any of your ordering needs, and let's face it, who doesn't?? Please consider using www.smile.amazon.com and designating St. Luke's on the Lake Episcopal Church as your charity of choice. The monies donated by Amazon go directly to Children's ministries and are GREATLY appreciated!!

May the peace of the Lord be with you always. We look forward to seeing you and your children soon. It would not be the same without you!! Blessings through His Grace Alone, LoriAnn
Director of Children & Family Ministries

Greetings from Colorado Springs!

More than a decade of living, working, and pouring ourselves into North Africa made it 'home' and has given it a permanently special and important place in our hearts. We moved away from our home over there 14 months ago and, despite the amazing place we live now, we've all been missing it terribly.

However, we as a family have just said yes to an opportunity to return there for 3 months, from the beginning of December through late February! We will be leading a team of 5 students from the Discipleship Training School who are focused on 'Business as Missions'. To further train and equip them with real world experience we will be working with missions oriented businesses in a few locations in a North African country. We feel privileged to be training and equipping the next generation of world changing followers of Jesus!

It will be so good to see old friends, come alongside the long term missionaries, continue discipling believers in the mountains and share the Gospel with people who do not yet know Jesus!

Would you please pray for us and our team? We have seen so many times over the years that your prayers have greatly impacted the lives and situations around us. We can testify that the fervent prayers of the righteous are powerful and effective! We value you so much and really appreciate that SLOL has chosen to join our team. Thank you!
Blessings,
K, K & and kids

Clergy Staff

The Rev. Michael Wyckoff,
Rector
The Rev. Mark Chambers,
Curate

Ministry Staff

LoriAnn Lavallee,
Dir. of Children & Family Ministries
Ayesha Cox
Nursery Coordinator
Jimmy Cazin,
Dir. of Youth Ministries
Barbara Frazell,
Dir. of Programs &
Communications

Music Staff

9:00 am Service
Donald Grantham,
Choir Director
David Thoresen,
Organist
11:30 am Service
Richard Curlee,
Contemporary Music Dir.

Administrative Staff

Anne Severson,
Parish Administrator
Mary Miner,
Parish Secretary
Kim Weigers,
Bookkeeper
Michael Balli,
Sexton

**Church Office will be closed
for the holidays
December 25 & 26
and January 1 & 2**

Save the Date:

June 18th – 22nd

**is Vacation Bible School
and we need you!**

**STOP RIGHT NOW. GET OUT YOUR
CALENDER (or phone)
AND MARK OFF THAT WEEK.**

Call LoriAnn Lavallee, Director of Children & Family Ministries, to volunteer your talents today: we start planning in January and need to assemble our Director team ASAP! Look to future Newsletters and Cliff Notes for additional news regarding our needs and more info on our Director Team.

**NewsLetter
DEADLINE**

**Next newsletter
deadline will be December
1, 2017 for the January 2018
issue of The View. Focus for
this issue will be Epiphany.**

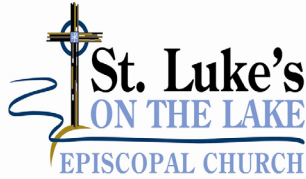
2017 Tax Credits

For contributions to be credited towards 2017 taxes, all must be postmarked by Saturday, December 30, 2017 or put in the offering plate Sunday, December 31, 2017.

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WEEKLY SERVICES

7:45 am Sunday - Holy Eucharist - Without Music
9:00 am Sunday - Holy Eucharist - Choir and Organ
10:15 am Sunday - Christian Education
11:30 am Sunday - Holy Eucharist - Contemporary Music
10:00 am Wednesday - Holy Eucharist

The View - December 2017



Holiday Schedule

Sunday, Dec. 24 – Advent 4

10:00am Holy Eucharist with Advent hymns
Nursery available

Sunday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve

4:00pm Holy Eucharist and Children's Pageant –
with Christmas Carols –
This is a children's service -
Nursery available

6:00pm Holy Eucharist & Sermon with Christmas
Hymns led by the
Contemporary Worship Band
No Nursery

10:00pm Holy Eucharist & Sermon with Christmas
Hymns led by Choir & Organ
No Nursery

Monday, Dec 25 – Christmas Day

10:00am Holy Eucharist & Sermon with Christmas
Hymns – No Nursery

Sunday, Dec 31 – First Sunday after Christmas

10:00am Holy Eucharist with Christmas Hymns
Nursery available

