

ANNUAL MEETING OF VOTING MEMBERS OF ST. LUKE CHURCH, ERIE, CO

Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese of North America

722 Austin Avenue, Erie, Colorado 80516

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JANUARY 28, 2024

Agenda

- I. Call to order; establish quorum
- II. Opening Prayer
- III. Approval of Minutes from last year's Annual Meeting
- IV. Election of Parish Council Members
- V. Pastor's Report; Questions and Answers
- VI. Financial Reports (emailed & at the back of hall) – Rob Bell, Treasurer
- VII. Approval of 2024 Budget
- VIII. Parish Council Chairperson's Report and Ministry Team Leaders Reports
(emailed and some at back of hall)
- IX. Question and Answers on all Reports
- X. Old Business
- XI. New Business, Other Announcements
- XII. Adjournment

Election of Parish Council Members

1. The nominating committee¹ presented two candidates for elected positions to serve 3 year terms on the Parish Council: Mitch Paxton and Elizabeth Thompson.

2. Pastor's Appointment: Rob Bell

3. Continuing members of the Parish Council are:

Peter Mustian (Chairman),

Betty Duran,

Steve Knudsen,

Bee Sturgis,

Gene Roberts,

George Rabtzow (Secretary),

Denise McIntyre (Vice-Chairman and Choir-Representative),

Sh. Margaret Ashton (Antiochian Women),

Frances Reda (Church School Superintendent/ Education Director).

We thank Darrin Morkunas for his service as he steps down from the parish council.

¹ All nominations to the parish council must be approved ahead of time by the pastor and nominating committee.

Annual Pastor's Report

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

With continuing thanks to God I address you for the first time as pastor in the annual parish meeting. In the first six months of my pastorate at St. Luke Orthodox Church, as I have gotten to know this God-planted vineyard and the faithful people who began it and grew it, I have been edified by the grace-filled ministries that strengthen our parish community and happy to help them continue on as God gives me the opportunity to do so.

The work of an Orthodox parish can be organized into four categories: worship, witness, fellowship, and service. In the past year, St. Luke has maintained its liturgical life -offering weekday liturgies and services in addition to the normal Sunday and Feast day services of the church year. We've been able to maintain the high level of Sunday School education (including an adult class taught by Fr. David), resume regular catechism class for our inquirers and catechumens, and expand adult education with a Thursday morning taught by Fr. Daniel, an advent retreat featuring Mother Melania of Holy Assumption Monastery, as well as the book studies and home school co-op that extend the educational work of our parish into the broader community. We offer multiple fellowship and support groups for men and women, including a new caregiver support group facilitated by Fr. Stephan. Our charitable contributions have continued on and have added OCLife as another beneficiary of the generosity of the St. Luke parish community.

It is my hope that in the coming year, these aspects of the life of St. Luke Orthodox Church, maintain and flourish. In a few days, the registration for Camp St. Raphael will open for the coming summer camping session. I hope all our young people consider participating in the camping programs of our Archdiocese. I've been asked to be a session priest there during Session 1. I have also been asked to be a session priest at Antiochian Village (Session 3). This is a privilege to be asked and I am grateful (to the camps and also to you) for the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

Concurrent with the maintenance and expansion of the ministries of our parish, in 2023 St. Luke's was struck with a hail storm that did significant damage to our roof and stucco. With the help of an anonymous donor, we have repaired the stucco and replaced the roof shingles with a great-looking stone-coated steel roof with a 50 year warranty, 140 mph wind guarantee and 2.5 inch hail guarantee.

I wish to express my appreciation to those who have helped make this transition such a positive one: first my brother clergy, Fr. David, Fr. Stephan, Fr. Jason, our reverend deacons and their families, without whose support this all would have been much harder. After a brief hiatus, Frs. David and Stephan have continued to serve with me at the altar, hear confessions, counsel those in need and visit the sick. They have my sincere gratitude for the continuity they provided during this transitional period. As it currently stands, Fr. Jason will be moving on later in the year to work as an active chaplain for the Army. In our brief time working together, he was an asset to my ministry and we wish him well in his future assignment. Next, I would like to thank the administrative assistant Frances Reda who has been a constant help and support, without whose help I doubtless would have been overwhelmed as I onboarded into the day-to-day parish administration. I would also like to thank the members of the parish council under the chairmanship of Peter Mustian, who have been effective and diligent in their responsibilities to the parish, as well as personally kind and respectful towards their new pastor. Along with the parish council, I would like to express my thanks to the heads of the various parish ministries -may God reward them as good stewards. Finally, I would like to thank my family, who have been patient and understanding when the work of the parish pulled me away (as happens to priests) at times both predictable and unexpected.

Glory to God -who has brought us together, who has blessed our community, and who will preserve it as we continue to keep it centered on Him!

Most respectfully,

Fr. Raphael

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

- General Membership (adults & children): 318 in 2023, compared with 317 in 2022.
- General Membership Households: 148 in 2023, compared with 151 in 2022
- Voting Membership (adults in households contributing \$1,000 annually): 160 in 2023, compared with 132 in 2022
- Voting Member Households: 103 in 2023, compared with 82 in 2022
- Average Sunday Attendance: 196 in 2023, compared with 186 in 2022 (and 345 on Pascha Sunday 2023).

Households Transfers Out

- Mikaela Morkunas (to St Spyridon)
- James and Nadia Morkunas (to St. Spyridon)
- Nassia Duncan (to St. Spyridon)
- Anthony Pappas (transferred out to Sts Peter and Paul)
- Demetri Likomitros (moved to Iowa when married)
- Greg and Megan Timby (moved to Florida)
- Charlie Dikmak (moved to France)
- Alex Seaman (to Russian Orthodox, Denver, CO)

Household Transfers In

- Jack and Karen Gardiner transferred in from AZ (Holy Resurrection Antiochian Orthodox Church in Tucson)
- Larry Tyler transferred in from AZ
- Matthew and Christina Vasquez and family transferred in from Assumption Greek Cathedral (along with kids: Wyatt, Onna, Olivia, Samuel)
- Irene Davis (Christina's mother) - transferred in from Assumption, too
- Katherine Fasbender transferred in from Holy Transfiguration of Christ OCA Cathedral
- Rhonda Sarris transferred in from St. Catherine Greek Orthodox
- Fr Raphael & Kh. Zohreh, Athena, Felicity, Roman Daly transferred in from St. Elias Antiochian, Austin, TX
- Fr Daniel & Kh. Elfriede Daly transferred in from St. Elias Antiochian, Austin, TX
- Alex Croitoru transferred in from St. George Antiochian, Wichita, KS
- Mimi Sawaked transferred in from St. Elias Antiochian, Arvada, CO
- Michael Trujillo transferred in from St. Augustine Antiochian, Denver, CO
- Margaret Evans transferred in from Orthodox Church in Pennsylvania
- Rene Newhouse transferred in from St. George Antiochian, Wichita, KS

Funerals (date of death is shown):

2023	12	31	Richter	Elizabeth
2023	12	27	Kowalik	Noreen
2023	12	3	Kowalik	Frank
2023	8	23	Voris	Angelo
2023	4	26	McLean	Donna
2023	2	20	Hynes	James
2023	1	19	Adcock	Tina

Baptisms:

2023	6	18	Kublitskiy	Victoria
2023	5	7	Rider	Tobin
2023	4	15	Sierra	Hailey
2023	4	15	Toennis	Conner
2023	2	12	Johnson	Christopher

Chrismations:

2023	8	20	Pettavel	Andrew
2023	6	10	Risner	James
2023	2	8	McLean	Donna
2023	2	19	Shcherbakov	Daniel
2023	1	8	Richter	Elizabeth

Marriages:

2023	7	1	Shcherbakov	Daniel
			Kublitskiy	Victoria
2023	6	11	Risner	James
			Foley	Kelsey
2023	1	8	Huitt	Eden
			Cowles	Geoffrey

24 New Catechumens

Chairperson's Report

“TRUST IN THE LORD with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.” (Proverbs 3:5 & 6)

As we bid farewell to 2023, it's with a mix of nostalgia and gratitude that I reflect on the journey we've undertaken together. This past year brought about significant changes, moments that tested our resilience, and thankfulness for the prospects that may lie ahead for our community.

One of the most notable events was the retirement of our beloved founding Pastor, Fr. David Mustian. Fr. David has been a guiding force behind our Church since its inception, tirelessly sacrificing for us and setting the course for success. He served our parish with all his heart. We extend our deepest gratitude to him for his love, leadership, unwavering dedication, and the indelible impact left on our Church and community.

With this transition, we are excited to welcome our new Pastor, Fr. Raphael Daly. Fr. Raphael brings great experience, perspective, and a commitment to continue to grow and build up our Church community. We are thankful to God for bringing us Fr. Raphael and his family, and we look forward to many great years ahead under his leadership and care.

This year also brought unforeseen challenges in the form of a major storm that swept through our facilities, causing significant damage. The storm tested our resilience, but it also showcased the strength and commitment of many in our community. Despite the adversity, a small and dedicated team rallied together, demonstrating unwavering determination to complete the repairs and restore our facilities. We also used this experience as an opportunity to strengthen our preparedness measures going forward.

Lastly, I wish to express my sincere thanksgiving to God for our mother Church of Antioch, our Hierarchs, our Clergy, and those in our local parish family who humbly and faithfully serve according to God's will. I pray that the Lord God continues to direct us to His divine wisdom and blesses us.

In Christ,

Peter Mustian

Ministry Team Reports for January 2024

Acolyte Ministry

Ministry Leader: Barry Lancaster

barrylancaster@comcast.net

1. Boys serving:

- a. 15 boys serving on 4 serving teams. Down from 20 boys on 4 serving teams in 2022 and 24 boys on 5 serving teams in 2021. We had 7 boys stop serving and two new boys. Have several boys now of age to serve but they have indicated they are not ready to serve.

John Milosovich	Luke Wicht	Mark Silosky
Jake Roberts	Ian Wicht	Noah Richardson
Ezra Sittler	David Mustian	Micah Richardson
Shane Callahan	George Mustian	Nathan Richardson
Ben Ratzbow	Hank Silosky	Zain Hodi

- a. 4 adults (Barry, Joe (training to be a deacon), Neil, Theophanes).
- b. 1 sub deacons – Mason server when he is at the liturgy.

2. Several older boys left for college, military service or job conflicts. Younger boys indicated they are not ready to serve so the number of boys serving has fallen. This is a two-year downward trend after steady growth in numbers for several years.

Administration Ministry

Ministry Leader: Frances Reda, Administrative Assistant
francesareda@gmail.com

Appointment: August 2023

Description of Ministry:

To support the mission of St. Luke Orthodox Church by providing assistance to Fr. Raphael (Pastor), efficient office management, and communication and coordination among ministry teams.

Duties:

- Administrative assistance to Fr. Raphael
- Supply maintenance
- Calendar management between ministry teams
- Attendance at Parish Council meetings
- Weekly and monthly communication publications to our parish

Team Members: Volunteers are recruited for specific tasks

Accomplishments for 2023:

- All Parish Work Day in April
- Update of inventory of booklets
- Organization of St. Luke Dropbox
- Assistance with communication for Fr. David's Retirement Party
- Assistance with roll out of Mailer-Lite Announcements
- Assistance with new bulletin format
- Recruited new leadership for Weekday Liturgy Team
- Ongoing creation and maintenance yearly calendar of Administrative tasks in google calendar
- Coordination between companies for sign repair
- Worked with Dn. John, Fr. David to refine Building Maintenance and Grounds schedule
- Gather, compile and publish Ministry Reports for Annual Parish Meeting
- Coordination of Christmas Decorating with Josh Colyer, Angelina and Max Shcherbakov

Goals for 2024:

- Research snow plow companies and call for competitive bids
- Recruit leadership for IT, AudioVisual, Medical Response and Safety Teams with Parish Council
- Continue All Parish Workday, organization of St. Luke Dropbox, preparation for Annual Meeting

ANTIOCHIAN WOMEN

Ministry Leader: Sh Margaret Ashton, President
shamassy@gmail.com

Description of Ministry:

To develop among women throughout the Antiochian Archdiocese a spirit of Christian leadership, awareness and commitment as taught in the Holy Orthodox Church; to foster among women throughout the Antiochian Archdiocese a genuine expression of love and service through works of charity.

Duties:

Coordinate and help organize fellowship meetings, retreats, and other activities to meet the spiritual and ministerial needs of the women of the parish of St Luke, including an annual fundraising event for the National AW annual outreach project.

Team Members:

- Aimee Colyer - Vice President
- Jo Kasten - Recording Secretary
- Katriona Wolff - Treasurer
- Frances Reda - Corresponding Secretary (appointed)

2023 Items of Note:

- “A New Song” workshop finished up in March and was very successful.
- Broomfield book group continues to meet at the home of Kh Annette Close.
- Antiochian Women’s month in March was a success, with women reading epistles at liturgies and participating in many other ways. Fundraiser brunch held on the Feast of the Annunciation resulted in over \$1,000 to be donated to National Project of support for earthquake victims in Syria and Turkey.
- Several parish members participated in a pre-lenten Women’s Retreat held at St Laurence/Our Lady Monastery in Canon City, led by Fr Stephan Close.
- A new resiliency peer support group for women, called HOPE (Healing Our Painful Experiences) was formed from the core base of members who wanted to continue from “A New Song.” Several new members were added to the group in September 2023. The focus of

the group is on building community and resiliency for healing from trauma and difficult life experiences. Applications for membership can be submitted at any time.

- Myrrhbearers met monthly to update prayer lists. This ministry is looking for new members.
- St Tabitha Guild finished up the planned icon stand and pulpit covers. Guild members have repaired some vestments and worked on needed alterations for vestments. Members continue to make baby blankets and hats for donations and parish baptisms and are helping make welcome basket liners for new member baptisms.
- The planned Flower Arrangement Workshop to be held on Jun 4 had to be canceled due to lack of interest.
- Official summer meeting of women in the parish occurred during fellowship hour on Sunday, August 13th. Officers were elected and discussions were held about future plans for the women's ministries.
- The Board of Officers met with Fr Raphael on Thursday, September 14th to discuss plans for this ministry in the coming year. We had a good discussion about possible activities and the role of the ministry in the parish.
- A retreat was planned for Advent, with Mother Melania (abbess at Holy Assumption Monastery in Calistoga, CA) as the speaker. Mother Melania gave a talk to the women on Friday evening and three talks to the parish at large on Saturday. Attendance was good, though lower than hoped due to it being a busy time of year and a snowstorm on Friday. There were several attendees from other local Orthodox parishes who joined in the retreat.
- A workshop to make decoupage pumpkins, led by Bee Sturgis, was held on Saturday, Oct 14th. About 15 people attended and it was a successful and fun event!
- Several women from the parish, including Kh Linda Mustian, Rita Rosson, and Kh Elfriede Daly wrote articles for the AW newsletter which were shared with the women of the parish.
- Support of the St Luke Outreach ministry collections for Erie Food Bank and the Lakota People on the Rosebud Reservation as well as the Myrrhbearers' Christmas Wreath sale.

Goals/Plans for 2024

- Women's Retreat to be held on Saturday, February 17 - led by AW Vice President Aimee Colyer on the topic of "The Grace of God in Women."
- HOPE meetings will resume on January 8, meeting every other week – except for the first week of Lent and Holy Week.
- Ladies Lunch Bunch organizational meeting in early January had to be postponed due to schedule conflicts and illness. This will hopefully be re-scheduled. The idea is to have a regular time each month when women from the parish meet at a local restaurant to share lunch and fellowship.
- Sh Margaret Ashton will offer a workshop on making Pysanky (Ukrainian Easter Eggs) on Saturday, April 20th.
- Myrrhbearers continue to meet, trying a change to meeting on Sundays after liturgy once a month rather than Saturday mornings to see if attendance will be higher.

- For Antiochian Women's month in March, women will be reading the epistle readings at liturgies and there will be a fundraiser to support the national project of establishing an endowment fund for widowed clergy wife.
- Several women from the parish are offering a Card-making workshop on Saturday, March 16.
- Antiochian Women will sponsor a parish-wide Round Robin Coffee Hour on Sunday, March 31.

Basket Ministry

Ministry Leader: Janelle Payne
dj72002@comcast.net

Appointed: September 2022

Description of Ministry:

Young ladies in the Church serve by collecting offerings and then handing out blessed bread after parishioners receive communion.

Description of Duties:

I create a 3 month rotation for the girls so they know when they are serving. Esther Payne helps me train new girls as they are ready to serve.

Team Members:

We currently have 18 young ladies who are serving in this ministry. Esther, Emma and Estella Payne, Rahma and Hadia Ehab, Zoe Wolff, Sophie Lamb, Isabel Knudtsen, Annabel Sittler, Mary Morkunas, Eleanor Lancaster, Caroline Richardson, Kylan and Caycee Callahan, Evalina Shcherbakov, Nora Rabtzow, Sophia Mustian, and Felicity Daly

Accomplishments for 2023:

We added 3 more young ladies to this ministry team.

BOOKSTORE: True Vine

Ministry Leader: Heather Wicht
heatherwicht@gmail.com

Leader: Heather was appointed to the bookstore ministry in February, 2022.

Description of Ministry: To purchase and provide icons, books, jewelry, greeting cards and other items that help parishioners grow in their faith and share their faith with others. To provide these goods at or near cost, obtaining them at wholesale prices whenever possible. The bookstore seeks to operate on a break-even basis.

Description of Duties:

- Open the bookstore after Liturgy each week:
 - Make sales, package/bag items
 - Answer general questions and help parishioners find items
 - Greet visitors and answer their questions
 - Take custom order requests
 - Issue and process gift certificates
- Order items at a discount for clergy and Sunday school staff
- Track inventory
- Read vendor newsletters and emails to stay informed of new books/items, promotions, etc.
- Place orders with vendors in order to fulfill custom order requests and replace/add inventory; print invoices for our records and treasurer's records; follow up with vendors as needed; keep parishioners informed about when items will arrive
- Purchase and sell items made by parishioners, such as Joe Worth's handmade wooden items and Bee Sturgis's greeting cards
- Purchase and sell items made by Lift up Uganda, such as bags, aprons, baskets, jewelry and prayer ropes
- Process purchased items: unpack, enter into inventory, print or make price tags
- Track cash and checks received, deposit cash and checks monthly or as needed, make change in order to balance cash drawer
- Maintain spreadsheet with monthly sales and orders
- Promote the bookstore via the monthly newsletter and in the weekly bulletin if appropriate

Team Members:

- Heather Wicht, Lead (appointed February, 2022)

- Joyce Neeland
- Eden Huitt

2023 Overview:

In 2023, the bookstore had 515 sales totaling \$11,608.67 (average sale of \$22.50). Sales varied widely from month to month, ranging from \$600-\$1900. Square fees totaled \$247.70 in 2023. Heather has been tracking monthly sales from one year to the next to try to anticipate sales and to adjust the volume of ordering accordingly

- The bookstore sold 1,048 items, including more than 140 icons, more than 300 books, more than 550 gifts/greeting cards/jewelry items and about 45 items made in Uganda for the Lift Up Uganda ministry
- The bookstore placed more than 60 orders totaling \$10,895.94 with a variety of vendors, including Ancient Faith, Legacy Icons, St. Vladimir Seminary Press, Uncut Mountain Supply, St. Paisios Monastery, St. Macarius Press, Orthodox Gladness, Holy Virgin Cathedral Bookstore and Orthodox Marketplace. The bookstore also purchased and sold items handmade by parishioners and Lift up Uganda.
- The bookstore currently accepts credit cards (chip and tap), Apple Pay, checks, cash and gift certificates. Credit cards are processed through our Square terminal. Square charges 2.6% + 10 cents in credit card fees per transaction, and the remainder is deposited into our bank account within a couple of days

2024 Goals:

Continue providing products from new and existing vendors for our parishioners at the best possible price, in order to support spiritual growth in our parish community. This year, Heather plans to continue to evaluate the layout and presentation of the bookstore to highlight new/seasonal items and provide an engaging environment where relevant items are easy to find. She plans to include bookstore updates in the monthly church newsletters. She may also begin recruiting one or more additional people to volunteer to work in the bookstore after Liturgy to ensure that we have coverage every Sunday.

Building Maintenance Ministry

Dn John Bourquin and Frances Reda coordinating
jebourquin@netzero.net; francesareda@gmail.com

Description of Ministry:

To keep God's house ready for His work through our parish by maintaining our facility and keeping it safe.

Duties:

Leader is point of contact for known mechanical and electrical issues with kitchen appliances, HVAC, water heater, doors, painting, light bulb replacement and any other miscellaneous building maintenance issues. Leader must organize volunteers to assist with building maintenance items. Timberline is responsible for bi-annual maintenance of the heating and cooling system.

Accomplishments for 2023:

1. Insulated kitchen outside wall water pipes
2. Repaired Oven
3. Painted Fr Raphael's office
4. Updated and Completed Building Ministry checklist
5. Replaced light fixtures above mirror valances in bathrooms.

We would like to extend a thank you to all volunteers for their support.

Goals for 2024:

Recruit and train leader for ministry

Cemetery Ministry

Ministry Leader: Dn John Bourquin
jebourquin@netzero.net

Appointment: This ministry was formerly led by Jerry Benson, of blessed memory, and I was his assistant.

For parishioners that own plots, please check they are listed on documents (available on request). For parishioners that own 2 or more plots, it is helpful to know which plot is reserved for a specific person; this can be designated on the attachments. Notes: Before purchasing gravestones, please fill out paperwork on the Town of Erie Cemetery internet page, as tombstones must meet certain requirements.

- It would be helpful to have an assistant for this ministry, as there is none currently.
- Keeps plot records current of parishioner owned lots. Current plot records are available upon request, please let me know if you see any errors.
- The Church currently owns 1 extra plot for emergency use, 9 were sold to parishioners burials, no more were purchased. All 9 transfers documented by the Town of Erie and paperwork filed at Church and given to new owners.
- Plots currently cost \$2000 each. The church may need to purchase more.
- Assist parishioner's purchase of plots through the Town of Erie.
- Maintain around the cross and graves of the St Luke section as needed.

Chanting Ministry

Ministry Leader: Gene Roberts
genebroberts@gmail.com

Team Leader: Gene Roberts, appointed fall 2007

Description and Duties of Ministry:

Chanters prepare and chant or read all elements of liturgical services which are not led by clergy as directed by The Holy Orthodox Church and specified in liturgical notes (when provided) by The Antiochian Archdiocese of North America.

Current members of team able to prepare and chant services in a leadership role:

- Gene Roberts (Reader Luke)
- Peter Mustian (Reader)

- Gwen Roberts
- Nancy Knudtsen
- Lydia Bailey

Current members able to chant / read in assisting position:

- Steve Knudtsen
- Walker Bailey

Committed to be at services and learn:

- Conner Toennis

Have shown interest in the ministry and may be part of team in the future:

- Jon Lamb
- Bethany Fu

Accomplishments for 2023:

- We've learned Great Doxologies in all 8 tones with two versions of tone 2.
- We've been blessed to learn Orthros in its entirety.
- Gene has begun (barely) the process of learning Byzantine notation.

Goals for 2024:

- With Fr. Raphael's continued help, we look forward to gaining a greater understanding of the Byzantine chant. This will certainly include plumbing the depths of resources which may be new to our team. It is my wish that we learn to chant in as edifying and beautiful a way as possible. That we allow The Church to define what beauty in chanting is and put aside our feelings where appropriate.

Please pray that God continues to lead people to the chanters' stand who have the voice to chant and who are willing to learn humility.

Choir Ministry

Denise W. McIntyre, Choir Director
mcintyrelaw@comcast.net

Appointment: July 2014

Description of Ministry: To lead the congregation in singing during liturgy.

Duties:

- To produce heavenly, reverent music that touches the congregation spiritually, creating beauty in worship
- To hold regular practices
- To recruit and retain committed choir members who are able to match pitch

To sing liturgies for Sundays and Holy Days, as well as services for Weddings and Funerals

Members:

Soprano: Aimee Colyer, Marydel Hiskey, Liz Thompson, Denise Voris,

Alto: Betty Duran, Rose Faissal, Masha Hodi (Sundays), Debbi Neeland, Frances Reda, Michelle Zeman

Tenor: Denise Rice, Josh Colyer, John Fu (as needed)

Bass: Don Hiskey, Jerry McIntyre, Mark Roe, Paul Voris.

2023 Highlights:

- We lost two basses, (Alexander Seaman and John Kuepper), but gained one Soprano (Aimee Colyer), one alto (Rose Faissal) and one bass (Paul Voris)
- We were unable to hold our Annual Christmas concert outreach due to changes in membership
- Assisted with children's Christmas Pageant

Goals for 2024:

- To continue to gain and retain committed choir members
- To continue our tradition of holding our annual Christmas Concert outreach in December

Membership Information

- We are always in need of new, committed members
- Choir Practices may be held on Saturdays or Wednesday evenings and are usually suspended in summer
- Warm-ups are held every Sunday morning at 8A
- If you would like to try out the choir, please attend one of our warm ups!
- We are currently an adult choir. If your children are interested in singing, please contact Denise McIntyre, 303-525-8618

Coffee Hour Ministry

Ministry Leader: Bethany Fu,
bethanyjohnfu@gmail.com

Appointment: January 2022

Appointment: January 2022

Description of Ministry:

- Provides hospitality and food to our visitors and parishioners after Sunday liturgy
- This ministry creates a fellowship opportunity plus a good way to welcome visitors.
- Each week a team of stockers, preppers and cleaners provide food for fellowship and then clean up afterwards.
- People volunteer as fits their needs and desires. Some volunteer weekly, some volunteer once per rotation, some sign-up when they want to sponsor a week.
- Special thanks to the Timby family, the Mustian family, Theophanes and the Schumachers, who perform duties on a weekly basis to help the ministry run smoothly.

Duties:

- Create schedule for participating members, giving the date of their participation
- Circulating schedule by e-mail once per quarter and reminder of participation the Tuesday prior.
- Generating and posting the schedule by the entrance to the Parish Hall.
- Facilitating changes needed for the volunteers in the ministry.
- Recruiting people to join the ministry.

Current Members:

- 6 rotating stockers, 3 continuous stockers

- 13 families on prepping
- 17 families on cleaning
- 1 family on hosting at their discretion

Accomplishments in 2023:

- Continued monthly potlucks
- Made adjustments to the stocking list throughout the year based on feedback
- Modified the volunteer list throughout the year based on changes in volunteers
- Held multiple feedback meetings with volunteers and parish leadership
- Increased cleaning team sizes to at least 4 people scheduled per week
- Held a Thank-You and training meeting; successfully delivered thank-yous to team members

Challenges in 2023:

- Occasionally some team members did not show up on time or at all
- Difficulty continuing to get new volunteers to fill-in for people who have to drop off the ministry due to life circumstances
- Scheduling is most difficult during summer months, with several people dropping from the ministry each June and others being gone on vacation without providing notification that they can't fulfill their scheduled week

Improvement Plans for 2024:

- Plan a way to substantively express gratitude to all our volunteers for this ministry
- Improve methods of recruiting and communicating for this ministry

Create training pattern for new participants in the ministry

Counting Ministry

Chief Counter: Michelle Zeman
michelleyk@comcast.net

Appointment: September 2021

Description of ministry:

- Collection of checks and cash from the week, and Deposit in the bank.
- Separated into the correct categories for Rob Bell our treasurer.

Duties:

- Two church members count the cash from the offerings, Book Store, fellowship, and any other cash offerings that are given to the church.

- I copy checks for the treasurer.
- I then add the amount of all the checks and register it onto a bank deposit ticket along with the counted cash.(we double count everything).

This gets everything ready for Rob Bell to do his thing.

Team members:

- Daya Colborn, Joyce Neeland, Mitch Paxton, and myself. I have two substitutes, Paul Voris, and Linda Mustian.
- Lou Zeman takes the counted money and checks to chase bank every Monday morning
- Then I send the deposit slip via text to the treasure, Rob Bell.

Accomplishments for 2023:

- All the money and checks were counted for with very few mistakes.

Goal for 2024:

- To repeat what we did in 2023

FESTIVALS MINISTRY

Pascha Leader, Christine Twining
christinetwining@yahoo.com

No Term Specified: Organized PASCHA, 2023

Description of Ministry: This ministry is responsible for Organizing PASCHA.

Duties: To organize and coordinate PASCHA

Team Members: no official list, but here are some main helpers:

- Rose Faissal - (helped set up and picking up supplies)
- Angelina Shcherbakov- (provided flowers, help with decorations)
- Rita Rosson - (helped with flower arranging)
- Bee Sturgis (creation of posters and social media for events)
- Dwight Colborn - (organized the team to cut and prepare the meat)
- Tony and Candice Cirbo - (helped cut the meat and kept the serving platters full)
- Walker Bailey (smoked meat for the parish for PASCHA)
- Vanie Brown (helped with kitchen duties)
- St. Luke Admin Team aka Frances Reda (insertion of announcements and updates in the bulletin)
- Sue Nelson (helped direct where food goes on Pascha morning before liturgy)

Accomplishments in 2023:

Organized PASCHA

Goals for 2024:

- Use the lesson learned notes from PASCHA 2023 to make the event even more streamlined.

Flowers Ministry

Rita Rosson

ritarosson@msn.com

Appointment:

I just started bringing flowers to the church ever since we were established in 1991. Flora Baker, memory eternal, had a nice cutting garden and used many of her flowers in the beginning and I supplemented them when I had them.

Description of Ministry:

Flowers serve the purpose of reminding us of God's creation and the beauty of his handiwork, and are meant to express joy. The temple should feel welcoming and flowers help to do that. We inherited the custom of decorating the churches with greenery from Old Testament times. Fifty days after the Israelites came out of Egypt, God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses on Mount Sinai. In remembrance of the Covenant between God and His chosen nation, the people decorated their homes with tree branches and flowers.

Duties:

- Purchase fresh flowers/plants from wholesaler and/or local venues.
- Make standing flower arrangements and for icons for all major feast days.
- Coordinate other feast-day decorations.
- Collect rose petals for the Holy Friday evening service all summer long.
- Coordinate a listing of donors for the major feast days.

Team Members:

- Pascha has the biggest display of flowers for the temple with emphasis on the tomb on Holy Friday. It is all lovely thanks to help from Lily Huff, Frances Reda, Nancy Knudtsen, and Elsa Ghidi.
- This year Max and Angelina Shcherbakov generously were in charge of the temple and parish hall decorations for the Advent/Christmas season. Many
- thanks to all of the hands it takes to make the Pascha and Christmas feast-day celebrations blessed and joyful.

Goals:

To learn new techniques for arrangements while trying to keep in mind that like all adornments, flowers and plants must not ignore or detract from the symbolic and theological meaning of sacred spaces and furnishings, and they should highlight the altar.

Gardens and Grounds

Rita Rosson

ritarosson@msn.com

Dn. John Bourquin

jebourquin@netzero.net

Gardens: Rita

Appointment: Summer 2022

Description of Ministry:

- To maintain and improve the flower beds.
- Weeding is a number one priority throughout the growing season.
- Pruning of trees and shrubs as needed.
- Cutting back rose bushes in early spring.

Duties:

- Recruit garden volunteers.
- Volunteers adopted a garden space or the gravel path areas to maintain for the season.

Team Members:

Thank you to: Deacon John Bourquin, Kh. Annette Close; Daya Colborn; Elsa Ghedai; Joan Jordan; Paul Haddick, Marydel Hiskey; Isabelle & Nancy Knudtsen; Zach Littrell; John & Janet Milosovich; Mitch & Cathy Paxton; Gene & Gwen Roberts, and Kalyn Wolff. Forgive me if I have forgotten a name.

Accomplishments for 2023:

- The grounds never looked better thanks to the hard work and many hours spent weeding, pruning, fertilizing, and picking up tumbleweeds by an incredible group of dedicated volunteers and some of their family members.
- Large planters in the squares where two dead trees were cut down next to the circle drive were installed and planted.

Goals for 2023:

- May God bless the continued service by committed volunteers to keep up our beautiful grounds.

Grounds: Dn John Bourquin

Frances Reda has been coordinating a lot of this ministry. Looking for a volunteer to lead this ministry.

Accomplishments for 2023:

- Replaced bad valves and sprinkler heads.
- Sprinkler System Evaluation by Resource Central at no cost.

2024 Planned activities/Needs

- Replace some of the dead trees, need the Parish Council to make decisions on this.
- Regular checking of irrigation especially drip lines.
- Purchase a wifi chip for the main Rain Bird controller panel to allow remote control of system and watering schedule. With that system we can have tighter control on the water use and better automatic scaling for rainy weather.
- *It would be beneficial to change the controller on the West side of the fellowship hall over to a Rain Bird with Wifi and have the new expansion landscaping valve box wired to this West controller, this would require a short run of underground wiring. One system to control them all would make it much easier to maintain. This would make it easier to monitor watering and water cost.*
- Maintain condition of overall grounds, including maintenance building and parking lots." Replace trees that have died on church property near the front church entrance areas. "
- Whenever something is broken- leaking irrigation lines, broken spray heads, dying grass, unkempt weed management, etc, please let us know by filling out a form at the office OR Email or Text.
- Maintain overall condition of the grounds

A very special THANK YOU to everyone that has assisted with maintaining the grounds. This past year a great number of folks have stepped in to take care of many tasks because they had done them in the past and just kept up their excellent work.

Holy Bread Ministry

Loulou Najjar

loulou2win@yahoo.com

Appointment: 2014 to present

Mission: To provide Holy Bread so that the Church members can participate in Holy Communion.

2023 Results: The Holy Bread Ministry provided Holy Bread for 104 Sundays and 104 Wednesdays Services in addition to Feast Days, etc. Our team rotates baking responsibilities weekly. Together we have baked over 800 Holy Breads this year! Thank you to everyone for your support, dedication, and love!

2024 Goals:

- Holy Bread Workshop: to have more of the parishioners participate and learn about this humble work and how much it is important in the Orthodox Church service.
- To continue providing the Church with its Holy Bread needs.
- To engage more young families with their kids.

Members by family last name are:

- Rosson
- Duran
- Hiskey
- Payne
- Knudsten
- McIntyre
- Milosovich
- Morkunas
- Worth
- Daly/ Kh. Elfriede
- Najjar

International Outreach Ministry: Lift Up Uganda

Ministry Leader: Sue Nelson

ssnelson22@aol.com

Description: Lift Up Uganda Inc. represents St Luke Orthodox Church in northern Uganda with goals of improving Health and Education. Long term goal is self-sufficiency.

Team members: Frances Reda, Susan Habegger, Kh Annette Close, John and Janet Milosovich, Elsa Ghidei and Tzegai Negash, Daya and Dwight Colbor

Accomplishments in 2023: EDUCATION

Richard Okello from Gulu, Uganda started his second year at St Vladimir's Orthodox Seminary. After graduation in 2025 he will return to Uganda to be a parish priest. LUU was blessed to have a successful 12th Eritrean Fundraising Dinner to support Richard.

Fr Simon Menya returned to the US for 3 months to update everyone on his NUSSP work. He was at St Luke Church December 2,3 and addressed the parish.

Eunice Ajok from Gulu, Uganda started her first year at St Francis School of Midwifery in Kampala. After graduation she will be on staff at the St Nektarios Health Center.

The St Nektarios Community Children's library opened June 12, 2023 after a long delay due to shipping container availability. Molly Schuringa (formerly of St Luke Church) and Sue met the shipping container and prepared the library with Daniel Owani, our new librarian. The library is open to all students at our school and in the surrounding communities. Increased enrollment at the school has been one result.

St Nektarios Nursery and primary School had 2 new kindergarten classrooms built for the growing number of students. A new Latrine was also built. In December another classroom for 6th grade was started on Holiday break.

School student sponsorship for 40 students was started on a trial basis by St Luke families. The sponsor provided Tuition for 3 terms and a Uniform. Parents/guardians provided Food and Other Requirements forming a partnership with the sponsors. The trial was very successful and will be continued in 2024 with an increase to 54 students being sponsored.

Solar power and computers were added to the school when the Children's Library opened.

Susan Habegger of Thrive Life Skills taught another Trauma course for the clergy. A Priest Wives Papahdia Retreat #2 was facilitated by Susan and Sue. The Mothers Union Sewing Project continues to

expand with new members and new products. Three local markets were started. Sue continues to bring their products to the US to sell at a variety of places.

Accomplishments in 2023: HEALTH

The St Nektarios Health Center continues to provide primary, emergency and maternity care 24/7. The Ambulance is on call at all times for emergencies,

The 2 Nurse midwives and 1 Nurse became WHO Master Trainers to teach Helping Mothers Survive courses specializing in Post Partum Bleeding and PreEclampsia/Eclampsia. A new emergency kit for these emergencies was added to the Maternity Wing. The first class for local midwives and doctors was held. The 2 Nurse Midwives taught 6 classes each of Helping Babies Survive and Essential Care for all Babies to local midwives and doctors.

The Myrrhbearers Annual Christmas Wreath Sale for providing mosquito nets to newborns delivered at the Health Center was again successful. The Health Center staff precept local nursing, midwifery and medical students for their clinical rotations.

Monthly Outreach Clinics to remote villages continue with large attendance for the education and medical care provided.

Lift Up Uganda partnered again with Global Access 2030 to teach and to distribute a total 400 water filter units in 4 different villages. Each family will be able to have clean drinking water for 3 years. A Team of 4 local people became teachers to educate the families and to do 3 month follow up visits. Water tests were done and tested negative for parasites and bacteria. Illnesses and deaths from water born illnesses were prevented. In 2022, 200 units were distributed and in 2023, 400 units distributed.

GOALS for 2024:

Every project requires continued awareness and fund raising to reach our goals. Lift Up Uganda is grateful for all of the St Luke parishioner's support through prayers, encouragement and finances.

(1) Vacation Bible School ideas for bringing to northern Uganda are being explored. (2) Medical mission teams have been requested and will be organized if funding is available.

(3) A new goal of providing 600 water filter units in 2024 has been set. The demand for the

water filters is very high and several families have to be turned away. If we succeed in providing 600 in 2024 then a total of 1200 families and the St Nektarios School will be able to have clean drinking water.

(4) LUU continues to partner with Fr Simon and NUSSP.

Koliva Ministry

Leader: Betty Durán

bduran@q.com

Appointed: February 2022

Purpose: Alongside the Trisagion Prayers, we offer koliva to commemorate the departed souls of the parish, and to bring to remembrance the universal resurrection.

Duties: Members prepare and bring koliva once a month on the Sunday when Father does the memorial prayers for the departed.

Members: Nancy Knudtsen, Bee Sturgis, Marie Boyko, Betty Durán, Carol Hynes, Janet Milosovich, Nadia Kuhlmann

Accomplishments: We have provided koliva once a month during this year.

Goals: To keep the ministry functioning smoothly.
To encourage more participation.

Local Outreach Ministry

Ministry Leader: Carol Hynes

hynes25@hotmail.com

Appointment: April 2015

Description of Ministry: This ministry partners with local community organizations to meet the needs of our neighbors.

Duties: Provide opportunities to invite surrounding communities to come and see the church.

Team Members: Carol Hynes, Bee Sturgis and Harold Sturgis

Many thanks to those who helped with events:

Deacon John Bourquin, Bee Sturgis, Frances Reda, Denise Rice, Rose Faissal, Theophanes John, Rory Hynes, and Ryan Hynes

Accomplishments from 2023:

- Sister Carmen Winter/Spring Food Drive: Parishioners contributed 165 pounds of food and personal items to replenish shelves.
- July 3rd Fireworks and Community Outreach: Beginning in 2017, it has been a joy and blessing to provide church tours to our neighbors as they wait to view the Erie Fireworks display. A total of 31 tours were given
- Erie Food Bank Annual Thanksgiving Baskets: "We so appreciate your gift, said Robin, I will send a thank you note but words fail to convey the deep appreciation we feel. Thank you so much. Our clients have grown from 65 families to 85 families now. The funds are most needed." \$1,020 was collected for their needs.
- Lakota Indian People Christmas Gifts: Generous donations totaling \$2,210 were used to purchase children's gifts, gift cards, food, personal and household items, for the Lakota people on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

Lock-Up Ministry

Leader: Betty Durán

bduran@q.com

Appointment: March 2022

Purpose: To ensure the safety and security of the building after Sunday services.

Duties: Ensure that the outside doors are secure, that fire-suppression doors are closed, that the stove burners and ovens are off, and that lights are turned off.

Members: Each member of the Parish Council does this ministry for one month.

Accomplishments: This ministry had fallen by the wayside, but it is now reinstated and functioning well.

Goals: To maintain the security and safety of the building without incident.

Mercy Meal Ministry

Ministry Leader: Bee Sturgis
born2beecreative@comcast.net

I was appointed as Ministry Team leader in October 2023.

Description: The Mercy Meal Ministry provides families in our Parish a meal or refreshments after a funeral service is held in the temple. The Mercy Meal Team provides lunch and desserts for the family and friends attending the funeral service. In this way, St. Luke ministers directly to those suffering with grief with Orthodox Christian love and mercy.

Duties include: Organization of the food that will be served. Contacting all on the team and organizing who will bring each of the foods, who will set up and who will clean up. All linens and towels are washed. The Mercy Meal Team provides lunch and desserts for the family and friends

The team members are: Yvonne Clark, Bethany Fu, Carol Hynes, Nancy Knudtsen, Denise McIntyre, Katheryn Morkunas, Rita Rosson, Elsa Ghidei, and Linda Mustian.

Unfortunately we had 3 of our parishioners fall asleep in the Lord during December and January.

- 1. December 14, 2023, Frank Kowalik,
- 2. January 3, 2024, Noreen Kowalik,
- 3. January 10, 2024, Betty Richter

The number of family and friends attending during these 3 services ranged from approximately 30 to 70.

Goals for 2024 are to remain committed to serving food to those that are grieving. We are hopeful that this will be a comfort to family and friends of those who have fallen asleep in the Lord.

Midweek Liturgy

Ministry Leader: Nancy Knudtsen
nknudtsen@gmail.com

Duties: pot providence meal set up/clean up

Current team began fall 2023- Thanks to all who help, on a team or not!

Small teams serve once every 5 weeks to set the table and clean up from midweek pot providence meal after the Liturgy

Rotation teams: Kathryn Morkunas, Zach Littrel, Kelly Hesse ; Michelle Zemen, Nancy and Steve Knudtsen; Shelli and Ezra Sittler, Joyce Neeland; Aimee Coyler, Margaret Evans, Randall Barres ; George Rabtzow, Michael Holeman

To help, ask someone who is working or ask Nancy and she can add you to a team.

Goal for 2024: To continue to provide support for meals after Liturgy and add more willing helpers.

Myrrh-Bearers Intercessory Prayer Ministry

Ministry Leader: Rita Rosson
ritarosson@msn.com

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayer, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made for all people. 1 Timothy 2:1

Description of Ministry:

- We are women communicants of St. Luke Orthodox Christian Church committed to the ministry of intercessory prayer and service.
- We use the St. Philip's Prayer Discipline for our daily prayers and meet monthly for prayer in the temple.

Duties:

- We are dedicated to enhance knowledge of the Orthodox faith and its spiritual traditions, growth, and evangelization.
- Participants commit themselves to daily prayer, fasting, intercession, and study.

- Once a month we send out an email for prayer requests to church members.
- We keep these prayers for the month.
- All prayer requests are kept confidential and shared only with the clergy.
- If anyone is not contacted regularly, please let one of the team members know.

Team Members:

- Tina Adcock, Daya Colborn, Marilyn Geerdes, Heather Hennigh, Carol Hynes, Bobbe Koch, Sue Nelson, Olga Peyton, Denise Rice, Elaine Senko, Carol Toensing, Kat Wolff

Goals for 2023:

- To encounter Jesus in prayer as we speak to him about the suffering, sorrows and needs of those who ask us for prayers.
- When we take time for intercessory prayer, we are taking our petitions to Jesus.
- “He is the one intercessor with the Father on behalf of all” and is “able for all time to save those who draw near to God through him,” in addition, the “Holy Spirit intercedes for us.” Thus, may we become more attentive to the needs of others.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

Sunday School Director, Youth Council Coordinator, Administrative Assistant for St. Luke

Homeschool Co-op

Frances Reda

francesareda@gmail.com

Appointment: May 2022

Description of Ministry: To support the mission of St. Luke Orthodox Church by strengthening young people (ages 0-12th grade) in the Orthodox Faith by offering opportunities to build relationships with the church; past, present, and future, as well as with the triune God, and to provide them with opportunities to reflect His glory in word and deed.

Duties:

- Sunday School (SS) - To provide SS teachers with curriculum, supplies, training, and weekly support in the classroom for Sunday education. To provide families with enriching resources that facilitate the extension of SS education into their homes and family life.
- Youth Group - To support Youth Council with monthly gathering opportunities for youth (grades 6-12) with the goal of strengthening relationships with each other, the parish, the community, and with God in a safe and enriching environment.
- Homeschool Co-op: To provide administrative support to Homeschool mothers as teachers and students who meet twice/monthly with the goal of supporting homeschool families in daily prayer and song, relationship building, Nature Study, Hand crafts, Artists Studies, Composer studies, Folk singing and dancing, and Poetry.

Team Members:

- Sunday School - Bethany and John Fu & Heather Hennigh: Katriona Wolff & Janelle Payne; Hailey Sierra & Sonie Sisson; Dena Tinsely & Graham Simpson; Zach Littrell & Conner Toennis ;Joanna Silosky, George Rabtzow; Substitute Teachers: Amira Mustian, Kathryn Morkunas, Rose Faissel
- Youth Council - Mimi Sawaked, George Rabtzow
- St. Luke Homeschool Co-op- From St. Luke's: Shelli Sittler, Jenna Rabtzow, Heather Wicht, Kat Wolff, Charla Lancaster, Kate Miers, Sarah Laverly.
- VBS: Gwen Roberts, Director of Music; Bethany Fu, Yvonne Clark, Kat Wolff, Aimee Colyer, Claire Gerthe, Janelle Payne, Graham Simpson, Sue Nelson, Dn. John, Kh. Linda Mustian, Michelle Zeaman, Rita Rosson, Joan Jordan.

Accomplishments for 2023:

- Sunday School (SS)
 - Recruited, trained, and equipped teachers for all grades.
 - Compiled and distributed age-appropriate lessons, materials and supplies for each grade level. Inclusions: Romans lessons from our Archdiocese (parts 1 and 2), the

gospel lessons from our Archdiocese “Let us Attend” curriculum, weekly Saint Studies, Great Feast lessons, Creative Arts Festival Lessons.

-Over 60 children registered; Attendance fluctuates weekly. 6 lead teachers, 6 assistant teachers and 3 substitutes.

-Special Events: The Annual Saint’s Parade (over 25 participants); The Nativity Pageant, directed by Denise McIntyre (45+ participants).

-Vacation Bible School: 32 children participated for 5 morning camp in July

-Hosted Andrew Kern from Circe to discuss Classical Christian Education with 18 interested parents, teachers, clergy, staff, parishoners on 1/5/2024.

- Youth Group

- Youth Council offered monthly opportunities (with the support of youth families) for youth to gather and strengthen relationships in a safe and enriching environment

- Coordination for Project Mexico for 3 adults and 4 youth

- Service Project: All Parish Workday: 4 youth volunteered

- OCF presence established at CU with the leadership of Graham Simpson; Group meets every other week.

- St. Luke Homeschool Co-op

- 10 mothers and 25/27 children (the 2 additional children are under 3) families outside of St. Luke’s asking for information on the co-op and we will see if they visit.

Goals for 2024:

Sunday School (SS)

1. Complete Romans study (parts 1 and 2) at all grade levels.
2. Implement Creative Arts lessons to inspire the children to participate in the Archdiocese Creative Arts Festival.
3. To maintain, or recruit new, teachers for the Fall 2024 semester.
4. To continue to provide curriculum, supplies, training, and weekly support for all SS teachers during the Spring & Fall Semesters.
5. Continue to compile, and distribute Orthodox Christian SS curriculum for use in our parish SS program.
6. Plan and implement Vacation Bible School for all children and youth.
7. To continue the conversation about expansion of educational opportunities at St. Luke’s
8. Maintain communication with AOCA in regards to updated Safety Policy for children and youth

Youth Group

1. Hire Youth Director
2. Continue to offer gathering opportunities for youth that are enriching and fun, twice monthly
3. Offer at least two service project opportunities within the community.
4. WAMP: January 12-15; two adults and two teens attending
5. Send Youth to Summer Camp at Camp St. Raphael (June 23-29) and Antiochian Village (July 14-26) Fr. Raphael attending both
6. Rocky Mountain Orthodox Camp; Steve Knudtsen coordinating (July 22-25)
7. Send a group of (2 leaders plus 4 + youth) to Project Mexico. Matt Richardson leading. (July 30-August 5)
8. Re-establish OCF presence at CU
9. Maintain communication with AOCA in regards to updated Safety Policy for youth

Co-op

1. Increase awareness of St. Luke Homeschool Co-op through St. Luke website
2. Consider and plan possible expansion of the St. Luke Homeschool Co-op

Thank you to all of our wonderful Sunday School teachers, Youth Council leaders, and Co-op teachers for your devoted services to our children and youth. If you are interested in being a Sunday School teacher, Youth group leader, or VBS teacher please see Frances.

Cleaning Guild of St. Luke Temple

Ministry Leader: Marydel Hiskey

mdhiskey@comcast.net

- The cleaning guild is responsible for cleaning the temple weekly, having it ready for worship.
- Ours is a most blessed ministry. Often we have the temple to ourselves, often silent, when we have the opportunity to so clearly join our work to our prayer.

Duties:

- Team members vacuum, dust, wash glass, remove wax, wash marble and disinfect surfaces on a weekly basis with tasks that have been determined over the years of service.
- During the Christmas season, Holy Week and Pascha, it is necessary to clean more often
- Duties of the Guild Leader are to make out the team schedule for cleaning and to purchase most cleaning supplies with reimbursement from our Treasurer.

Team Members: there are three teams, made up of four persons each: Rita Rosson, Theophanes John, Frances Reda, Kh. Linda Mustian, Ivonne Hamilton, Nancy Knudtsen, Kh. Annette Close, Sarah Lavery, Michelle Zeman, Elsa Ghidei, Kathryn Morkunas, Joan Jordan, Marydel Hiskey

Accomplishments for 2023

- We were able to have the temple ready for worship on a weekly basis and for high feast days.

Goals for 2024

- Our goal is best stated by our prayer: Most Gracious God Who has called me your child to serve in the care of Your most Holy Temple, sanctify my life and consecrate my hands so that I may worthily fulfill your ministry. As I prepare Your Holy House for worship, grant that my whole life may be illumined and blessed by You, in whose honor I prepare it. And grant that my brothers and sisters who shall be blessed by experiencing Your Kingdom in this sacred space, may find their lives transformed by Him Whose Body and Blood is our hope and our strength, Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN
- We plan to try to bring the team number back to where it was before Covid, four, plus 2-4 permanent substitutes.

Usher Ministry

Ministry Leader: Kelly Hesse

hessfam9@gmail.com

Description of Ministry: To warmly and courteously welcome parishioners, friends, and guests to divine services on Sundays and Great Feast Days, and Holy Week.

Team Members: Tony Cirbo, Candice Cirbo, Daya Colborn, Elsa Ghidei, Matt Richardson, Caroline Richardson, Lynne Silosky, Sh. Denise Timby, Jeremy Simpson, and Kelly Hesse

Duties:

- Leader coordinates the quarterly schedule for volunteers, emails weekly reminders, and fills absences, as needed.
- Volunteers greet people, answer questions, provide directions, pass out bulletins, additional service information sheets or booklets, music, children's materials as needed
- Assist newcomers with visitor cards and give information packet
- Direct flow and assist people during Holy Communion
- Help with equipment for hearing impaired
- Be aware of church etiquette; communicate with Pastor if concerns
- Follow security process, if required
- Supervise girls taking collection plates and sharing blessed bread
- Monitor the need for changes in lights (special services), heating and cooling, and sound system
- Facilitate collection of special offerings

Accomplishments for 2023:

- Effectively performed the above mentioned duties
- Maintenance of equipment for hearing impaired people
- Navigated changes in usher personnel

Goals for 2024:

- Continue smooth weekly services to our parish and guests
- Recruit more ushers

Welcome Team Ministry

Ministry Leader, Steve Kelly
steveokellysan@gmail.com

Description: The Welcome Team has the responsibility to identify, meet, and welcome visitors to St. Luke Church. It coordinates with the Ushers and others in identifying new people and then offering hospitality during coffee hour and engaging them in conversation to get to know them and to answer basic questions. I was asked to serve on the visitor team by Don Hiskey in 2022 and with Fr David's blessing began to lead the team early in 2023.

Team members offer to introduce them to Fr. Raphael for further discussion. Brochures and booklets about St. Luke and Orthodoxy are also offered. The Visitors Table in the Parish Hall is an important gathering place for Team members and guests.

Team Members: Joan Jordan, Dcn. John Bourquin, Steve Kelly, Sh. Margaret Ashton, Fr. Dan Daily.

Accomplishment for 2023: St. Luke had 45 known visitors, including children. These are the ones who agreed to complete Visitor's Cards which enabled us to follow up with them. In addition to known visitors, we also had an unknown number of visitors during the year who did not want to complete a Visitor's Card or couldn't attend coffee hour.

Of the visitors, we currently have 24 chatachumens, including two entire families. Visitors very often remark how friendly our church is. One reason is the many members of St. Luke who voluntarily introduce themselves to people they don't know or point them out to one of our Team members. We thank them for caring and for the members of our Welcome Team.