



*News Brief to the Parishioners of*

# Saint Luke Orthodox Church

Erie, CO

October 2023

[stlukeorthodox.org](http://stlukeorthodox.org)

**I**F you examine the Church calendar from year to year, you notice that the great feasts of our Lord and of the Mother of God are for the most part evenly spread out: Theophany comes in January, Presentation in February, Annunciation in March, Holy Week and Pascha usually fall in late April or early May, Ascension and Pentecost are in May or June, and so on throughout the year. There are only two months that don't have a great feast associated with them -July and October. For us who are blessed to have St. Luke the Evangelist as the patron of our parish, we do get a great feast during October -and another month sanctified by the grace of the Holy Spirit and the commemoration of the holy Apostle and Physician of souls. And unlike parishes dedicated to one of the blessed saints of July, our commemoration isn't interrupted by summer travels. This is a mercy for us; also, it means most of us have no excuse to let the feast day go unobserved and unattended.

Why must we celebrate the feast of a patron saint? In material and earthly terms, it's important for a community to come together regularly to rededicate itself to its ideals; a patron saint is the embodiment of the highest ideals and commitments of a church. We have in St. Luke an image of bold evangelism, leadership, faithful worship and a healer. St. Luke was notably a companion of St. Paul when all others departed and a person of obvious secular education who used that learning charitably in service to God and man. These are the core values at the heart of an

Orthodox Christian parish. On our best days, this is the kind of people we strive to be (both to each other and to our neighbors). Celebrating these ideals is not necessarily living them out, but if we want to stay faithful to them, then we must as a community lift them up. Enshrining a virtue is a necessary step in living by it.

More than the earthly benefit, however, we celebrate the feast of St. Luke so that by commemoration we are with him -and he with us. Our relationship with St. Luke is a relationship with someone who is alive with the God of the Living and present at our Lord's heavenly throne. But it is still a relationship and like all relationships, it requires an investment of time and care. Most people would be happy to have a doctor for a friend; we're blessed to have a heavenly physician as a steadfast friend and traveling companion along the narrow way to the Kingdom.



In his Gospel, St. Luke recounts how the Lord was revealed after the Resurrection on the road to Emmaus. We read this Scripture often: the Lord opened the Scripture to the disciples. Their hearts burned within them to hear it thus opened. But this "opening" and "illumination" was fulfilled in "the breaking of the bread" -a phrase St. Luke uses to refer to Holy Communion. Let us keep this holy month following his wise teaching: with the Scripture open in front of us, with our hearts ready to be enlightened by its gospel teachings, and with faithfulness to "the breaking of the bread."

## Special Feasts & Services

St. Luke Day, Wednesday October 18 5:30 PM, Divine Liturgy. In honor of St. Luke, the Patron Saint of our parish, we will have a special potluck dinner immediately following liturgy. Please bring your favorite lenten dish to share.

## Chronology of Events (in addition to liturgies)

- Next Trisagion Memorial Service before Sunday Divine Liturgy is October 1, remembering Frank Romanick and Bishop Antoun. May their memory be eternal.
- Iconography Installation: Tuesday and Wednesday October 3 & 4 all day
- Adult Education Class: Thursday October 5 at 10:30 AM
- Myrrhbearers Meeting: Saturday October 7 at 9:00 AM
- Brunch for Rita and Mike Rosson 60th Wedding Anniversary: Sunday October 8 after liturgy
- St. Luke Co-op: Monday October 9 at 11AM to 3:30 PM
- HOPE Group Meeting: Monday October 9 at 6:30 PM
- Parish Council Meeting will be Tuesday October 10 at 6:00 PM; Everyone is welcome.
- Adult Education Class: Thursday October 12 at 10:30 AM
- Men's Breakfast and Study Group: Saturday October 14 at 9:00 AM. See Joe Worth for information.
- Catechism Class: Saturday October 14 at 2:30 PM
- Potluck Sunday Fellowship: Sunday October 15: No assigned dishes; bring something delicious to share
- Adult Education Class: Thursday October 19 at 10:30 AM
- Women's Pumpkin Craft Class: Saturday October 21 at 2:00 PM
- St. Luke Co-op: Monday October 23 at 11AM to 3:30 PM
- HOPE Group Meeting: Monday October 23 at 6:30 PM
- Adult Education Class: Thursday October 26 at 10:30 AM
- Autumn Fest for Youth: Saturday, October 28 at 5:00 PM
- Children and Youth Saints Parade: Sunday, October 29 after brief Sunday School for all.

## News Updates

### *Fr. Raphael Begins His Pastorate*

Last month, Fr. Raphael began to serve Saint Luke's as its pastor. At the direction of Bishop Basil (just before his own retirement), Frs. David and Stephan stepped back from services for a month to allow Fr. Raphael to "settle in." The month now being complete, we're happy to have them back with us. Fr. David is now an attached priest (with the honorary title *pastor emeritus*) and Fr. Stephan and Fr. Jason continue to be attached priests at St. Luke. They are all welcome to continue to serve at the altar, teach, hear confessions, visit those in need of prayers and sacraments, etc.



## Update on our parish financial situation

from Rob Bell, treasurer

As always, thank you to everyone who has made offerings throughout the year and special offerings for the storm repairs!

### *Storm damage and other repairs*

We're excited that our roof replacement will finally begin the week of Oct. 2; with materials arriving and work starting on the parish hall/educational wing. Stucco repairs are also scheduled to begin in October. Combined payments for these will total a bit over \$200,000. We will be paying for some of the work as it is in progress. Soon after completion our funds on-hand could be as low as \$40,000-\$50,000 - barely any cushion over a month's expenses - unless offerings over the next month or so are over the expected October figure. If you intend to help with storm repair costs, but have just been waiting until closer to the "actual" time of needs, please consider making your intended offering during October. And, noting "storm repair" on the memo line. Thank you as always for past and ongoing stewardship. If you have questions please contact Rob at [treasurer@stlukeorthodox.org](mailto:treasurer@stlukeorthodox.org) or 240.447.3243. <https://app.easytithethe.com/app/giving/stlukeorthodox>

### *Additional Information from our Treasurer*

Safeway cards: For those already using a Safeway rewards card - thank you! New cards have arrived, please see Frances or Rob. Safeway will donate a percentage of your purchases made using a rewards card to St Luke. Each year we receive hundreds of dollars of "free" donations. There's no cost for the card or program. Cards and more details are available at the office. King Soopers cards may also be set up to support our church with every purchase.

## Ministry Updates

We need Ministry Leaders to fill vacancies in the following Ministries: Building Maintenance, Grounds Maintenance, Web/IT Team", Audiovisual team, Feasts/Festivals, Medical Response Team, and Safety Team. If you are a part of these ministries (or want to join) and would like to lead, please talk to Fr. Raphael.

## Children, Youth and Family Events

- **Sunday School** for all Ages continues. We are studying the Book of Romans: "One Body in Christ". In October, children and youth will prepare for the *Annual Saints Parade* on Sunday October 29 after a short Sunday School session. Participants need to choose a saint to study, write clues about their saint, and then dress as their saint.
- **St. Luke Homeschool Co-op** meets every other Monday. We have a few late morning activities...ballet class and handcrafts. Next is lunch and fellowship and then we gather for contemplation and recitation of a Psalm, artist and composer study, folk singing and folk dancing. Depending upon the needs and ages of your children mothers and their child/children can come for both morning and afternoon or just for morning activities or for just the afternoon.. Please contact Shelli Sittler if you are interested [sksittler@gmail.com](mailto:sksittler@gmail.com)
- Join our **Youth Group** for an Autumn Fest on Saturday, October 29 at 5p. Spooky movie, snacks & fun.

## Antiochian Women Update

The Antiochian Women ministry has several events planned for the coming months. There are a couple of fun crafting workshops being offered, and a retreat is in the works for early December, as well as another one in February, 2024. Please see the bulletin board or the AW e-newsletter for more information . Sign up for the newsletter here: <https://google.us18.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=49b47dfb31e1f03b867659e04&id=1b6100e548>

## Lift Up Uganda Update

### *Uganda School Sponsor*

Dr. Sue was happy to share your letters with your sponsored school students at St Nektarios Nursery and Primary School. The students are thrilled to receive your letters. They have written a letter and taken a photo that Sue will mail to you as soon as she returns September 29. The parents are asking if you want to continue your school sponsorship for 2024. The cost has increased from \$125 for 3 terms in 2023 to \$150 for 3 terms in 2024. This amount covers all tuition plus a uniform. Please consider and contact Sue by December 1 to make arrangements. The parents/ guardians appreciate so much your help for their children to go to school. Thank you!

### *September Mission Trip*

- Once again “Mama Susan” Habbegger taught a Thrive course for all the clergy in northern Uganda which was a huge success. We also met with those priests involved in establishing a Counseling Center. Each class adds to their preparation. We both offered the 2nd Papahdia Retreat for priest wives. The Trauma Course was well received. We learned so much about their trauma during the war and their challenging role in the church.
- Sue evaluated the Children’s Library and saw the huge positive impact it is making for the children. They continue to love touching and reading the books and then sharing about what they have learned. Each day they eagerly await their library time where many fun activities about reading happen under the direction of their librarian Daniel. Efforts to invite other children in the community continue. The teachers give the library an A+ as they use the library’s resources every day!
- The Mother’s Union continues to grow with several new Mothers joining and learning to sew. Mama Susan has initiated some new products to expand their wares. A restaurant on the road between Gulu and Kampala is now stocking and selling the Mother’s Union products well. More markets are being explored.



### *Myrrhbearers Annual Christmas Wreath Sale*

Please see any Myrrhbearer or place your order and payment (cash or check) in an envelope in the Parish Hall for your fresh Christmas Wreath with pine cones and a bow. Every sale of a \$20 wreath allows Lift Up Uganda to buy an insecticide treated mosquito net for newborns delivered at the St Nektarios Health Center. Malaria is a devastating disease and can result in death in the very young. Please place your order by November 12. The wreaths will be delivered on November 24 to the Parish Hall. The wreaths are made by adults with Downs Syndrome in Ft Collins at Columbine Products. If you do not need a wreath please consider giving a donation or spread some holiday cheer and give a wreath to a friend/ family. Last year we were able to buy 75 mosquito nets but more are needed. Currently we deliver at least one baby every day at the St Nektarios Health Center. Help us “Fight the Bite” to prevent Malaria! For questions contact Sue Nelson 970-391-2690

## Choir

Do you love to sing? Do you enjoy singing along with our choir on Sundays? Now is the perfect time to join the St. Luke Liturgical Choir! We are always in need of new members. Our choir aims to sing for all liturgies, including the twelve great feasts, weddings, funerals and our annual Christmas Concert outreach to the Erie Community. Other than expressing your love of Our Lord through our beautiful music, there are no requirements necessary to sing in His choir, including the ability to read music. Please see Denise McIntyre if you are interested in joining, 303-525-8618 or mcintyrelaw@comcast.net. Our practices are generally held on Wednesday evenings, some Saturdays, and warm up every Sunday at 8AM.



### ***Erie Food Bank Thanksgiving Outreach***

October-November 5th This monetary collection will enable the food bank to distribute gift cards to needy families so they can purchase a turkey. Please make your check out to St. Luke and in the memo indicate Erie Food Bank. Funds collected will be given to Joanna Toy, Director.

### ***Bookstore News***

Many new, beautiful items, handmade by the members of the Mother's Union in Uganda, are now available in the bookstore. These include aprons, bags of all sizes and baskets. Stop by and take a look! In addition, the bookstore has recently stocked many new icons, books and gift items. We are always happy to custom order items for you, often at a wholesale discount.

### ***College Students***

Greetings CU Boulder OCF! This fall, OCF will meet October 3, 17, 31; November 14, and November 28. All meetings are in Ketchum room 1B64. Graham Simpson: [grahamsimpsonco@gmail.com](mailto:grahamsimpsonco@gmail.com) or Robbie Macdonald [roma9153@colorado.edu](mailto:roma9153@colorado.edu)

### ***Word Magazine***

The Word Magazine is a free publication for members of our church provided by the Antiochian Orthodox Christian Archdiocese. Paper or digital copies published. Sign up here: [http://ww1.antiochian.org/address\\_updates](http://ww1.antiochian.org/address_updates)

### ***The Great Doxology***

Our Parish continues to learn the Great Doxology in all eight tones, as appointed in our Liturgical Guide. All new music settings take time to become familiar, please be patient and follow the chanters as you pick up the melody during parts of it. The sheet music and recording can be heard or downloaded. We are following the weekly cycle as guided by our Archdiocese Liturgical Guide: <https://antiochian.org/liturgicday>

### ***Care of our Temple***

We have two weekly cleaning teams that work very hard to keep our temple beautiful. Please be mindful of our shared sacred space. Wipe muddy and snowy feet on mats in the Narthex. It is good to keep an eye on the children when they are eating blessed bread so that unnecessary crumbs are not going onto the floor. Please remove your trash, kleenex, etc. and place in the trash bins in the Narthex.

### ***Care for our Homebound Members***

Volunteers needed to visit, encourage and help homebound members of our parish. Please let Frances know if you can help.

### ***Live Streaming Services***

Our Sunday 8a Orthros and 9a Sunday Divine Liturgy "live streaming" continues on our YouTube channel "st-lukestream". The link below may be copied and pasted into your web browser. As a "subscriber" to our YouTube channel, you can get an alert - if you wish to know when a live stream is on.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHBtBg43HgfOd4N02UZOR4w>

### ***Looking ahead to 2024***

If any of your or your friends have interest in a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, please speak to Fr. David. He may be planning one in late September with Fr. Constantine Nasr (retired priest in our Archdiocese and born in Palestine). Fr. David hopes to be involved in one pilgrimage each year in his retirement.

## Saturday Catechism Classes — 2023/2024

Beginning in September, Fr. Raphael will offer a series of introductory classes for Inquirers and Catechumens at St. Luke. These classes are geared for all those interested in learning more about the Orthodox Church, for those interested in becoming Orthodox, and for our own members who may never have gone through a series of catechism classes. **These classes will be held on Saturday afternoon before Vespers at 2:30PM.**

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
I.	09/16	Introduction & Revelation
II.	09/30	Nicene Creed - Part I "I believe in One God..."
III.	10/14	Nicene Creed - Part II Who is Jesus Christ?
IV.	10/28	Nicene Creed - Part III The Holy Trinity
V.	11/11	The Holy Scripture & Canons
VI.	12/02	Hagiology & Mariology
VII.	12/16	Sacraments and Worship
VIII.	01/13	Divine Liturgy
IX.	01/27	Iconography
X.	02/10	Spirituality
XI.	02/24	Developing a Rule of Prayer
XII.	03/09	Confession & Entry into the Church

\*Dates, times and topics are subject to revision. See future News Briefs for updates.



## **Pan-Orthodox Events**

### ***Being the Good Samaritan: Serving our Neighbors in Need Retreat***

**S**aturday, October 21 at St. Catherine Greek Orthodox Church with Fr. Alexii Altschul. See bulletin board for schedule and registration information. No cost to attend.

### ***Fall Front Range GOYA Retreat***

**W**e have an early deadline to confirm our spots at the Buckhorn Camp in Bellevue, Colorado for our October 27-29 Front Range Fall Youth Retreat; registration is closing at midnight on October 10 which is now right around the corner. Please encourage all of your leaders and youth ages 11-18 (6th-12th Grade) to register this week! Here is the registration link for your GOYAnS. Please email [elum@saintspyridon.church](mailto:elum@saintspyridon.church) if you have any questions. We are greatly looking forward to another time of fellowship and prayer together in the mountains for our GOYA!