

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Weekly Newsletter

September 11, 2026



You are invited to the
St. Luke's in-person
Sunday Morning
Service at 9:00 a.m.

If you are unable or
prefer to join us on Zoom, we will send you
a Zoom invitation through email. If you
are not receiving the email, please send the
office a message.

LINKS TO ALL OF OUR WEEKLY SERVICES CAN BE FOUND ON
stlukesatascadero.org



Sunday
Tuesdays
Thursdays

Sunday Eucharist 9:00 a.m.
Evening Prayer 5:00 p.m.
Evening Prayer 5:00 p.m.



September 13

Genesis 50:15-21, Psalm 103:(1-7), 8-13
Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-35

September 20

Jonah 3:10-4:11, Psalm 145:1-8
Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16

September 27

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32, Psalm 25:1-8
Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32



SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE THANK YOU FOR SERVING

**THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO ARE SERVING
ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13**

OFFICIANT: JUDY LEWIS

BIBLE STUDY: TIM PECK

MUSICIAN: MATT PRICE

FIRST LESSON AND PSALM: LEANN BROOKS

SECOND LESSON: JEANNE OWEN

USHERS/GREETERS: MIKE & SALLY FERREE

**THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO ARE SERVING
ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**

PRESIDER: REV. KAREN SIEGFRIEDT

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER: STEPHANIE SHERMAN

FIRST LESSON AND PSALM: TIM PECK

SECOND LESSON: MARY GRUBER

USHERS/GREETERS: JAN HICKOK

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER:
LEANN BROOKS

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

SEPTEMBER 13 ROGER & ALICE BAKER TABER

SEPTEMBER 20 JEANNIE OWEN



ST. LUKE'S SUMMER CALENDAR

- Zoom Morning Prayer 8:30 a.m. every morning
- Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 5:00 p.m.
Zoom Evening prayer (link on the website)

September 13	Morning Prayer with Bible Study lead by Rev. Tim Peck & Vestry of the Whole and potluck following service
September 20	Rev. Karen Siegfriedt presiding
September 27	Rev. Richard Rollefson presiding
October 4	Rev. Karen Siegfriedt presiding Blessing of the Animals
October 6	Bible Study with Rev. Caro

CHURCH WORKDAY PLANNED FOR OCTOBER 3

Plan to join us on Saturday morning, October 3 to do a little sprucing up of the church grounds. There will be some weeding, pruning and doubtless a few other outside jobs to be completed. Bring gloves and your favorite gardening tools and plan to be with us for a couple of hours or a few minutes or whatever time you can spare. Questions? Call Roger Taber for more information.



THE BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS IS ON THE HORIZON

Sunday, October 4 is the day we welcome our animal kingdom friends for a blessing inside the church. We will again be blessed by the presence of Rev. Karen and Stephanie, our most animal loving clergy. Bring dogs, cats, ducks, snakes, lizards, frogs, ocelots, elephants or whoever. Every living being is welcome in God's family.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Bishop's visit for 2026 is scheduled for December 13. We hope you can be with us in person on that day. If you haven't met the Bishop, it is a great time to do so. If you have met her already, it is still a great time say hello and to extend the hospitality of our St. Luke's community.

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CHRISTMAS BAZAAR



Bazaar News

While our Christmas Bazaar will focus mainly on homemade jams and jellies this year, we do want to give everyone a chance to exercise and share their joyous creativity. We know that some of us really enjoy creating theme baskets for the sale. Here are a few ideas if your enthusiasm leans in that direction. Keep in mind that the Bazaar is not meant to be a chore. Make a basket if you want to. If you don't like making baskets, please find some way to help that you will enjoy.

St. Luke's Christmas Bazaar Basket Themes Ideas

1. Christmas Morning Basket – coffee, cocoa, mugs, Christmas treats, candles
2. Wine Lovers Basket – wine, wine glasses, corkscrew, cheese, crackers
3. Italian Dinner Basket – pasta, sauces, olive oil, spices, breadsticks
4. Mexican Fiesta Basket – salsa, chips, tortillas, hot sauce, margarita glasses
5. BBQ Basket – sauces, rubs, grilling tools, apron, meat thermometer
6. Baking Basket – flour, mixes, vanilla, baking tools, cookbook
7. Cookie Decorating Basket – cutters, sprinkles, icing, decorating tools
8. Coffee Lovers Basket – coffee, mugs, syrups, biscotti, coffee shop gift card
9. Teatime Basket – assorted teas, teapot, cups, honey, cookies
10. Chocolate Lovers Basket – premium chocolates, cocoa, fudge, chocolate-covered treats
11. Movie Night Basket – popcorn, candy, drinks, blankets, movie gift card
12. Game Night Basket – cards, board games, snacks, drinks
13. Family Fun Basket – games, puzzles, snacks, movie gift card
14. Cozy Christmas Basket – blanket, slippers, candle, cocoa, chocolates
15. Pamper Yourself Basket – lotions, bath products, candles, robe, gift card
16. Gardener's Basket – gloves, tools, seeds, garden decorations, plant
17. Chef's Basket – quality utensils, spices, olive oil, cookbook
18. Breakfast Basket – pancake mix, syrup, jam, coffee, tea
19. Soup's On Basket – soup mixes, crackers, bread mix, soup bowls
20. Cheese & Cracker Basket – specialty cheeses, crackers, spreads, nuts
21. California Basket – California wine, olive oil, nuts, fruit products
22. Local Favorites Basket – products and gift certificates from local businesses
23. Christmas Candy Basket – assorted holiday candies and chocolates
24. Kids' Christmas Basket – toys, books, games, candy
25. Christmas Craft Basket – ornaments, craft supplies, ribbon, decorations
26. Pet Lover's Basket – dog/cat treats, toys, bowls, pet-store gift card
27. His & Hers Basket – separate items for him and her
28. Date Night Basket – restaurant gift card, wine, chocolates, movie gift card
29. New Year's Eve Basket – sparkling wine, glasses, appetizers, party decorations.
30. Holiday Entertaining Basket – serving pieces, napkins, candles, wine, appetizers

Since we have been enjoying this Poetry section lately, let's try sharing some more of the writings that we as individuals have found meaningful. You are invited to send a poem or paragraph along with a short sentence explaining why you chose it for us to print in this space.



Rev. Karen has sent us this article for the Poetry session.

A few rambling thoughts on church growth, “quiet revival”, and ministry in a secular age. Mainly for vicary types and an update from something I wrote a few years ago. *By the Rev. John Swale*

Over the past year or so there has been a lot of talk about church growth, spiritual openness, and even the possibility of “quiet revival” in the UK. Newspaper articles appear. Podcasts get excited. Somebody notices twenty-year-olds attending Evensong in London and suddenly we are apparently one step away from the Wesleys returning, though now with artisan coffee and a social media team.

Now, to be fair, there are genuinely encouraging signs in some places..

Some churches are growing.

Some younger people do seem more spiritually curious than they were ten years ago.

There are pockets of renewal.

People exhausted by the flatness of consumer life are searching again for meaning, prayer, transcendence, rootedness — words the modern West spent decades trying to outgrow.

And thank God for that.

Anyone involved in parish ministry has probably seen glimpses of it. Someone wandering into church because they do not know where else to go. A young lad lighting a candle after his mate dies. People who have achieved everything they were told would make them happy and still cannot shake the ache underneath it all.

Grace still leaks through.

But I do think some of the commentary around “revival” needs a little caution.

Because a few green shoots do not necessarily mean winter is over.

We still inhabit what Charles Taylor called a secular age. Not secular in the sense that nobody believes anything anymore — modern people believe all sorts — but secular in the sense that belief in God is no longer the default setting of society. Faith has become one option among many. Contested. Fragile. Difficult.

In older, more enchanted worlds, many people could scarcely imagine what it might mean not to believe in God. Whereas now, even believers — clergy included, if we are honest — can imagine themselves out of faith. Doubt sits much closer to the surface of modern life than church culture sometimes admits.

And that changes the atmosphere in which ministry happens.

The old Christendom world still lingers in fragments. Harvest festivals. Funeral hymns sung by people who have not entered a church in years. Elderly saints praying quietly at a midweek Eucharist while traffic crawls past outside. But much of the deeper cultural memory that once carried Christianity has thinned badly.

And interestingly, not everybody now drifting toward church is necessarily drifting toward Christ.



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Some are searching spiritually. Some are genuinely encountering the gospel. But others seem drawn toward Christianity as heritage, identity, stability, or civilizational memory in an anxious age.

You can feel it online sometimes — this strange mixture of nostalgia, masculinity panic, nationalism, culture-war grievance, and religious aesthetics. Christianity becomes less the way of the crucified Messiah and more a badge of belonging for people frightened by social collapse.

The church will need wisdom here.

Because not every rise in attendance is revival.

Sometimes people come seeking God. Sometimes they come seeking certainty. Sometimes they simply want somewhere solid to stand while the world feels like it is coming apart.

Those things can overlap, of course. God works with mixed motives all the time. Most of us came to faith carrying confusion, ego, fear, loneliness, longing.

Still, the church must be careful not to confuse the kingdom of God with Christian nostalgia or nationalist longing. The crucified Christ does not fit neatly inside projects of national restoration.

The tides pulling people away from church were not created by the current vicar of St Michael's trying to hold together a congregation of thirty-seven people, three radiators, and a roof quote capable of inducing minor cardiac events.

These are older currents.

Industrialization. Mobility. Screens. Consumerism. Exhaustion. The collapse of shared life. The slow erosion of institutions. The strange loneliness of modern Western existence.

Centuries of disenchantment do not suddenly reverse because a journalist discovers young men attending a cathedral.

And so I sometimes worry that clergy serving faithfully in difficult places hear all the "renewal" talk and quietly conclude that if revival is not happening in their parish then they must somehow be failing.

But many priests are ministering in places where secularization has bitten hard and deep.

Tiny villages where the school closed years ago. Post-industrial estates. Coastal towns.

Churches carrying decades of slow decline before the current priest even arrived.

Communities bruised by poverty, addiction, transience, and institutional collapse.

And still they turn up.

They unlock cold churches on wet mornings. They preach resurrection to twelve people and a dog. They visit the dying. They know whose son is back in prison. They bless food banks. They sit with lonely people who talk for forty minutes because nobody else has listened to them all week.

Some Sundays the heating packs in, the PCC spends half the evening discussing gutters, and somebody quietly asks whether the church can survive another five years.

And still grace turns up.

Stanley Hauerwas has spent years irritating Christians by suggesting that the church's task is not first to make the world run smoothly or reclaim cultural dominance, but simply to become the kind of community that remembers how to tell the truth about God in a forgetful age.

I suspect there is something in that.

I sometimes think the church has developed a theology for growth but not much theology for faithful diminishment.

We know how to platform expansion, charisma, innovation, metrics, “vision”. We are less comfortable speaking about the holiness of staying with places that cannot offer momentum, prestige, or success stories.

But there can be a holiness in staying.

A holiness in keeping prayer alive in a place the wider culture has stopped noticing. A holiness in loving people who cannot repay you with influence or statistics. A holiness in remaining present where things are fragile, tired, and quietly falling apart.

And perhaps sometimes parish ministry in a secular age can feel less like leading a successful organization and more like palliative care.

Not giving up. Not cynicism.

Just refusing to abandon people.

Helping communities die well where they are dying. Bearing witness gently. Keeping the prayers going to the end. Sitting beside something fragile and beloved as it slips away, believing that resurrection still belongs to God even when you may not personally live to see it.

Some churches now feel less like engines of growth and more like hospice chapels for Christendom.

But even hospices are places where tenderness matters.

That is not an argument for complacency. Some churches do need repentance, courage, imagination, change. Some decline is self-inflicted. And sometimes renewal genuinely does break out unexpectedly. God still surprises people.

History is not finished.

The church has looked exhausted before. Empires collapse. Cultures shift. Things buried sometimes rise again in forms nobody expected.

And after all, Christianity began not with influence, strength, or cultural dominance, but with a crucified man outside the city walls.

Abandoned by many. Mocked by empire. Followed by frightened disciples who barely understood what was happening.

And yet Christians dare to believe that somehow, in that broken body, God was reconciling the world to himself.

Which means the church should probably not be too frightened of weakness.

Or smallness. Or marginality. Or wounds.

The risen Christ still carries scars.

So perhaps smaller, poorer, less culturally central churches are not only signs of decline. Perhaps they may also become places where we learn again what the church actually is:

The people gathered around Jesus. Prayer offered in fragile voices. Bread broken. Mercy practised. The lonely remembered. The dead buried. The gospel whispered stubbornly in a forgetful world.

Some are called to lead large and growing churches. Thanks be to God for them.

Others are called to keep vigil in harder soil, trusting that even here, among smaller congregations and tired saints and uncertain futures, Christ still walks among the lampstands.

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Following Jesus into the Public Square

Practical and Spiritual guidance for living into our Baptismal Covenant



October 17th 2026,

10 am – 3pm

St Mary's Pacific Grove

\$25 includes lunch and snacks

We live in a time when political values are in direct opposition to gospel values. Many of us are discouraged and feel that there is little we can do to make a difference even as we see our neighbors being arrested, government programs decimated and the environment devastated. Yet our baptismal covenant calls us to persevere in resisting evil, to strive for justice and peace among all people and respect the dignity of every human being, so we cannot simply step aside. This workshop will:

- Help you discern how God is calling you to use your gifts
- Provide you with tools to live into your baptismal covenant, rooted in nonviolence
- Give you hope for the possibilities that God can open

Everyone is welcome. Come as you are. Please consider bringing friends from your congregation or community so that you will have a network of support.

The workshop leader will be The Rev. Jaime Edwards-Acton. Jaime has been Rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church for over 20 years, a vibrant, bilingual, multi-cultural congregation in the heart of Hollywood. Jaime is co-chair of Sacred Resistance in the Diocese of Los Angeles.

We understand... a call to stand in resistance to the systemic evils that oppress and marginalize any member of our human family – including but not limited to racism, sexism, nativism, homophobia, anti-Semitism and Islamophobia. Grounded in our baptismal promises, our resistance to public policies that perpetuate those evils is how we put our faith into action in the world. ~ Sacred Resistance6

Note: This is a high participation event!

Register on the Diocesan website: <https://realepiscopal.org/en/social-justice-event-registration/>

Sponsored by the Social Justice Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real



Gather with Taizé Music Sunday Evenings at 7:00 pm If interested and would like an invitation to attend, please send an email to castlewood16@gmail.com to get on the list.

Got Newsletter Articles?

Please send them to Kathy Hansen

Rubykat710@gmail.com

Put "Newsletter" in the subject line.

The deadline for each week is Tuesday evening.



MUJERES DE ACCION distributes food to families suffering the effects of ICE actions in our area on the Saturday following the third Wednesday each month.

You can contribute non-perishable food to the distribution by placing it in the box at the back of the church or arranging to drop it off with Mary Gruber by the Friday of that week. Items asked for are: Evaporated milk, chicken bouillon, sugar, instant coffee, pancake mix, apple juice, pinto beans, corn tortillas, rice, pasta, gallon water, peanut butter, strawberry jam, canola oil and diapers.

THE BOOK GROUP

The Book Group meets on Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m. skipping the first Tuesday of each month when Rev. Caro leads a Bible Study. The current

book is "Genesis for Normal People" by Peter Enns and Jared Byas. Contact Jeannie Owen for more information.



THE BIDDING BOOK & PRAYER REQUESTS

Prayers of thanksgiving or intercession written in the bidding book on the podium at the back of the church are offered during the worship service. They are also added to the Parish Prayer List, maintained by the Daughters of the King, and prayed for during Zoom Evening Prayer on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Emergency prayer requests may be made by calling the church office and leaving a message. Messages are checked daily. The prayer list is updated and refreshed on a regular basis. We are grateful for the faithfulness of the community in praying for those in need.

JOIN US FOR EVENING PRAYER



This is a wonderful way to bookend your day with a varied and brief service every Tuesday and Thursday at 5:00 PM. You may use the link available on the St. Luke's website (www.stlukesatascadero.com) or use any Zoom Evening Prayer invite you have on file. We welcome you to join us.

