

# Parish Life

The official newsletter of St. Luke's Episcopal Church



AUGUST 2025

# St. Luke's Episcopal Church

309 East Baltimore Street • Jackson, Tennessee

(731) 424 - 0556 • [stlukes@estlukes.org](mailto:stlukes@estlukes.org)

## Parish Offices Open

Monday - Friday • 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

### Staff

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### Vestry

Lee Sparks | *Senior Warden*

Tricia Odom | *Junior Warden*

Berta Garrity | *Clerk*

Greg Kost | *Treasurer*

### *Class of 2025*

John Neblett, Greg Kost,

Amy Turner

### *Class of 2026*

Berta Garrity, Jennifer Trently,

Abbie Hinton

### *Class of 2027*

Tricia Odom, Lee Sparks,

Gary Wake



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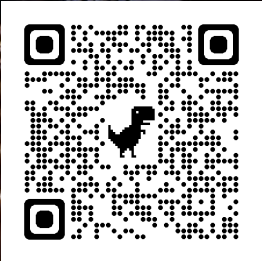
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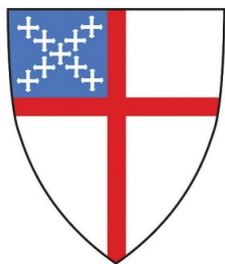
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Cover photo by Dana Mann, courtesy of Tim and Kate Sullins.



Help St. Luke's continue to be a vital part of downtown Jackson.



## *St. Luke's Episcopal Church*

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309 East Baltimore Street • Jackson, Tennessee 38301  
731-424-0556 • [www.estlukes.org](http://www.estlukes.org) • [stlukes@estlukes.org](mailto:stlukes@estlukes.org)  
*The Reverend Jesse Perkins, Rector*

Hello St. Luke's!

This month has been an amazing start to our ministry together! I am shocked and in awe at all of the work you all are already doing, and the impact you have on this community both within and without. It is a joy to see you all on fire for your church and for the possibilities that are there.

As I come along side and begin to look at the possibilities, strengths, and areas of need before us, my first focus area is relational. As I mentioned on Sunday and in last week's email, I am available for coffee, lunch, or just a meeting (and you can invite the whole family over if you dare!). You can find my contact info and scheduling tool below. If you find yourself in an emergency, please make a voice call to my cell phone as I cannot hear text messages during the night. (Also emails are better than Facebook messages).

Downloadable contact info: <https://dot.cards/revjesseperkins>

Find a time to meet: <http://cal.com/revjesseperkins/>

In addition to simply getting to know you all, I am beginning to look at our overall Sunday experience, in particular relating to the liturgy and our welcome of newcomers. When I was first interviewing, your vision of having a strong, Anglican worship and music stood out to me. Our music program is already doing amazing things (and we recently purchased gently used handbells to start a handbell choir!), and now I need your help to continue strengthening the entire Sunday morning.

In short, we need volunteers to help out in several key areas:

**Children's Chapel** - as I happen to have a five year old myself, I know firsthand that offering a loving, Christian formation experience for the age group older than the nursery kids (6 years and up) will become a crucial part of meeting the spiritual needs of young families. **Would you like to help me resume this program, and possibly volunteer once a month to help provide a lesson and worship during the sermon for our kids?** Email me: [jperkins@estlukes.org](mailto:jperkins@estlukes.org)

**Liturgy** - In order to truly create a transcendent worship experience that connects us to God and to each other, we need volunteers to help lead and facilitate that worship. This includes acolytes (no age limit here, carry cross and torches), readers, LEMs (chalice bearers), and altar guild members (amazing setup and cleanup crew). Can you get more involved on Sunday morning in our worship? Email Gary Wake: [gary@wake3d.com](mailto:gary@wake3d.com)

**Pastoral Care and home Eucharistic Visits** - Connecting with those who cannot join us can be a very fulfilling part of attending Sunday morning. One way we can do this is by taking communion out from Sunday and sharing it with homebound members in their homes late that day. Would you like to join us in sharing God's grace through the Eucharist with people unable to be at church in person? Let me know, and become a Lay Eucharistic Visitor (LEV).

There are more things to do, but we will get started here! I know that most of the time the best way to get someone to volunteer is to personally ask them, however, being so new here I must rely upon you to reach out to me! So don't be shy, and don't be a pew warmer only!

Blessings to you all, and I hope you are having a fantastic summer despite the heat. Look further in this newsletter to see our calendar of upcoming events!

Blessings,

Jesse+

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## Coming up this month

**Confirmation Classes:** Wednesdays at 6:00pm starting on August 6th, Fr. Jesse will be offering Confirmation/Intro to the Episcopal Church classes in preparation of Bishop Phoebe's visit on September 7th. Baptism is the full entry and initiation into the church, and a prerequisite for Confirmation. Confirmation is a Sacramental rite that is an adult profession of faith and renewal of those Baptismal vows, and a choice to live out our faith and Baptism in the Episcopal Church, and especially St. Luke's.

**Hymn Survey and Hymn Sing:** On Sunday, August 10th at 4 pm, we will have a Hymn Sing. Everyone is invited to complete the attached survey listing your ten favorite hymns from the Hymnal 1982 prior to August 9th, and attend this hymn sing to sing as many of these favorites as we can manage in the allotted time (probably about 30, determined by ranked choice), while also learning a new hymn or two. Since many of us at St. Luke's are not cradle Episcopalians, we encourage you to spend a little time with the Episcopal Hymnal finding the hymns you know and love in it and using it to complete your survey. We'll have a light potluck supper following this event. To complete the survey, visit <https://tinyurl.com/Hymn-Survey> or scan the QR code.

**Bible Study Returns:** Join us on Tuesdays at St. Luke's for Conversations with God, Scripture, and each other! Starting September 9th, here is our schedule for Tuesday mornings:

8:30am - Morning Prayer | 9:15am - Coffee & Conversations | 10:00am - Bible Study

**Visit [estlukes.org/calendar](https://estlukes.org/calendar) to view our full events calendar at any time, and to sync our calendar to yours using Google Calendar.**



## Saint Luke's Music program is recruiting volunteers this fall.



As we gear up for the coming school year, St. Luke's Church is growing its music ministry. Here are ways you and your children can get involved:

***St. Nicholas Choir (K-2nd grade)*** — *Wednesday afternoons at 5 pm until 5:30 pm, occasionally on Sunday mornings*

This is an introductory choir for children from kindergarten through the second grade, which will meet every Wednesday afternoon for thirty minutes at 5 pm, and will sing occasionally for church services and other parish events throughout the program year.

***RSCM Choir (3rd grade - 8th grade)*** — *Wednesday afternoons from 5:30 pm until 6:20 pm, Sunday mornings at 9:45 am*

This is our children's chorister program for children in the third through eighth grades, which is affiliated with the Royal School of Church Music, offering a solid musical education within our liturgical context. The choristers rehearse each Wednesday from 5:30 pm until 6:20 pm and participate in weekly liturgies and other special events, including Choral Evensong.

***St. Luke's Parish Choir (high school and older) - Wednesdays evenings from 6:30 until 8:15 pm, Sunday mornings at 9:15 am***

For singers in high school, college, and beyond, our St. Luke's Parish Choir welcomes newcomers on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 pm until 8:15 pm, and again on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am. Our Parish Choir emphasizes the rich Anglican and Catholic tradition of sacred choral music, while also exploring music of our own time, and music by women and minority-identified composers. In addition to Sunday morning Holy Eucharist, we will be expanding our offerings of Choral Evensong and possibly Choral Masterworks concert performances in the 2025-2026 season. In July of 2025, our Parish Choir will be traveling to Worcester Cathedral in England for a week-long, daily Evensong and Sunday Eucharist residence (with a beginning one-day residence at Trinity Church, where William Shakespeare worshipped, in Stratford-upon-Avon).

***St. Luke's Handbell Choir - inaugural meeting August 3 following the 10:30 am Eucharist, rehearsal days and times to be determined by participants at this meeting***

St. Luke's owns a 2-octave set of tone chimes, with which we hope to inaugurate a new handbell choir here at St. Luke's Church. Prior handbell experience is helpful but not essential to your participation in a handbell choir, but being able to read music is important. We will have a brief meeting in the choir gallery after the 10:30 Eucharist on Sunday, August 3 to establish the new handbell choir and agree on a weekly rehearsal time that works for everyone involved. (We have three volunteers so far, with space for 4 or 5 more volunteers in this exciting new program). This handbell choir will debut on September 7 in the 10:30 am service!

***Instrumental Music Program - to be determined based on interest***

If you play a musical instrument, we'd love to create opportunities for you to participate in our program, as well. Please email Jeffrey Hoffman and let him know of your instrument(s) and your personal assessment of your skill level.

**To participate in any of our music ministry offerings, please contact Jeffrey Hoffman, our Organist and Director of Music, by emailing him at [jeffrey@estlukes.org](mailto:jeffrey@estlukes.org).**





# Episcopal Church Women News

In June, the ECW met at the home of Lindsay Hutchinson for our annual Summer Salad Dinner. We held a brief meeting that evening and discussed several items, but our two most important items covered concerns our annual Calendar Party. The first was how we were going to spend the funds that were raised from last year's Calendar Party. After much discussion, we agreed to make \$1000 donations to the Emma Cruse Foundation, Keep Our Hood Good, and West TN Homeless Solutions. Next on the agenda was the 2025 Calendar Party. This year's theme is ERAs and will be held on Oct. 23 & 24. We will be hosting a Preview Party at 6:00 pm on Oct. 23, 2025. Guests will enjoy wine and hors d'oeuvres while having the ability to mingle and enjoy the decorated themed tables. On Oct. 24, 2025, we will be hosting our luncheon at noon.

*Amy Turner, ECW*

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## Mary Garden Update

The days have been long and hot in the Mary Garden. However, things are thriving. The perennials and the shrubs are growing and blooming for our pleasure. Because of the extreme heat, the work days in the garden have curtailed. With cooler weather coming soon, we can begin to tidy up and see what needs to take place in the Mary Garden. Earlier we added 'The Fairy' rose in the large urn along with some perennial geranium, 'Rozanne.' Because of an irrigation issue we had to replace one of the David Austin roses planted last year. We have an apple tree beginning to be espaliered on the north wall inside the garden. This is an experiment that we hope works! (None of the gardeners have ever attempted this before.) Plans for next spring are being formulated with, perhaps, a rose ('Bathsheba,' English rose) over the door going towards the nave much like the one in the picture. We welcome two new gardeners to the committee, Owen and Sue Gwathmey.

*Jaqueline Purcell*





# News from the Diocese of West Tennessee

***Tennessee Laymen's Conference (August 8-10; St. Mary's Sewanee):*** The theme for this year's Tennessee Laymen's Conference is "An invitation to Intention," inspired by Ephesians 5:15–16. Speakers include Sister Hannah Winkler, the Rev. Tom Gildemeister, and Andy Van Grinsven. The conference is fast approaching, but there is still time to register at [tnchurchmen.org](http://tnchurchmen.org).

***Younited @ the Shell:*** If you weren't aware, there is a diocesan-wide group for middle and high school youth called Younited. On Saturday, August 23 (6:30pm) at the Overton Park Shell in Memphis, Younited will be gathering to enjoy a free concert put on by the Stax Music Academy. Admission is free. Bring a blanket or chair, pack your favorite snacks, or grab something from the on-site food vendors.

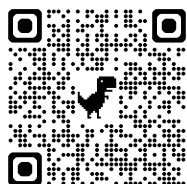
***St. Clare Women's Silent Weekend Retreat:*** St. Clare Retreats, a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee, offers silent retreats for women of all faiths. This year's fall weekend retreat is set for October 16-19 at St. Columba. A shortened option (Oct. 17-19) is also available. This year's fall retreat will be led by the Rev. Sarah Cowan, whose insight and radiant spirit promise a deeply meaningful experience. Registration opens in late August.

***44th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee:*** This year, the diocesan convention will be held on November 14–15, 2025, at Calvary Episcopal Church in Downtown Memphis. The convention will open on Nov. 14th with a Diocesan Eucharist at 6:00pm, followed by a reception. All are encouraged to attend, and no registration is required. A nursery will be provided.

For those of you interested in attending the business portion of the conference on Nov. 15, early bird pricing for registration is now available for \$70 per person. After August 29, the price will be \$90. Registration closes on October 3.

The theme for this year's convention is "One Church." It is a call to remember what binds us: the shared waters of baptism that mark us as Christ's own forever. Though we come from many places and carry many perspectives, we are drawn into one current, flowing together in purpose and promise. As we gather this fall, we do so as members of one body, discerning and serving as One Church.

(Next year, the conference may be held at St. Luke's!)



Do you want to know more about what's going on throughout the Diocese of West Tennessee? Scan the QR code or visit <http://eepurl.com/gP0AnL> to subscribe to The Diocesan Communicator.

# Fall Events Calendar

***Rally Day and Bishop's Visit:*** The Transition Committee will be hosting a reception on Rally Day, September 7, in honor of the investiture of Fr. Jesse as our rector, and of our new members who will be confirmed. We'll be reaching out for assistance from the congregation, as this will be a Sunday to remember! This will also be the day that The Rt. Rev. Phoebe Roaf will come for her annual Bishop's Visit at St. Luke's.

***Choir Services and Evensongs:*** Looking beyond this month's Hymn Sing on August 10, there will be an opportunity to attend services led by our choir every month until the end of the year. Add the following dates to your calendar so you don't miss out!

- September 28, 4:00pm - Evensong: Michaelmas
- October 19, 4:00pm - Evensong: Feast of St. Luke
- November 2, 4:00pm - All Saints Requiem
- December 7, 4:00pm - Lessons and Carols

***Blessing of the Animals:*** We are continuing our tradition of celebrating St. Francis Day by hosting a Blessing of the Animals, but we're doing it a little different this year. There will be two opportunities to bring your pets to St. Luke's on Sunday, October 5. Not only will we be blessing animals in the courtyard in the afternoon as usual, but you will be able to bring your pets inside for our 10:30am Eucharist in the nave. More details will be announced closer to the date.

***Men's Literary Guild Meeting:*** Greg Kost will be hosting his annual Fall Men's Literary Guild Meeting on the afternoon of Sunday, October 12. All men of St. Luke's are invited for a great evening of food, fun, and fellowship that you won't want to miss!

***Advent Calendar:*** The holiday season is still a few months away, but here are some events to look forward to this Advent:

- November 30, Noon - Advent Wreath Workshop
- December 7, 4:00pm - Lessons and Carols
- December 10, 6:00pm - St. Nick Celebration
- December 24, 4:30pm - Christmas Eve Family Service
- December 24, 10:30pm - Christmas Service (prelude starting at 10:00pm)



# Volunteer Opportunities

There are many ways to participate in life at St. Luke's outside of attendance on Sunday mornings. Lectors/Ushers/LEMs are scheduled every month based on your availability. Here's what each role does:

- **Lectors** read the First and Second Lessons for the congregation every Sunday. The term is from the Latin, "to read." There is no license required for this lay ministry. A lector may also be known as a reader.
- **Ushers** are responsible for greeting people as they enter the church and keeping count of how many are in attendance for the Register of Services. They report the attendance number to either the priest or LEM. Ushers also facilitate the passing of the offering plate.
- A **Lay Eucharistic Minister** is a lay person licensed by the bishop to administer the consecrated elements of the eucharist. Lay eucharistic ministers may be licensed to administer the consecrated bread and wine at any celebration of the eucharist in the absence of a sufficient number of priests and deacons to assist the celebrant. They may also be licensed to go from a Sunday eucharist or other principal celebrations of the eucharist to share the sacrament with members of the congregation who were unable to be present at the celebration because of illness or infirmity.

To sign up for any of these roles, please call the office (731-424-0556) or email Katie King, our Parish Administrator ([katie@estlukes.org](mailto:katie@estlukes.org)). Or, you can fill out a Volunteer Form by visiting [estlukes.org/volunteers](http://estlukes.org/volunteers).

Another way to support St. Luke's is by making a contribution to the Altar Guild. Every week, there is the opportunity to supply the altar flowers in memory or honor of a special person or anniversary in your life, or just because you felt like doing it. You could also help supply the altar supplies (\$50), candles (\$25), or both! Check out the signup sheets in the Narthex to sign up. All altar supplies and candles (except for candles in October) have been spoken for, but there is still plenty of chances to contribute to the altar flowers.

The best way to go about contributing altar flowers is by contacting the florist of your choice and arranging for them to drop off a floral arrangement at the church on Sunday morning. There is usually someone in the building to accept the delivery after 7:00am, but it doesn't hurt to reach out to the office the week before to confirm this. If your florist cannot deliver on Sunday morning, please call the office and arrange for the delivery to take place during our office hours (9:00am-1:00pm) on Friday.

If you would like your name and honorarium to be printed in Sunday's bulletin, don't forget to fill out the altar flower sign up sheet in the Narthex!