

SAINT LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

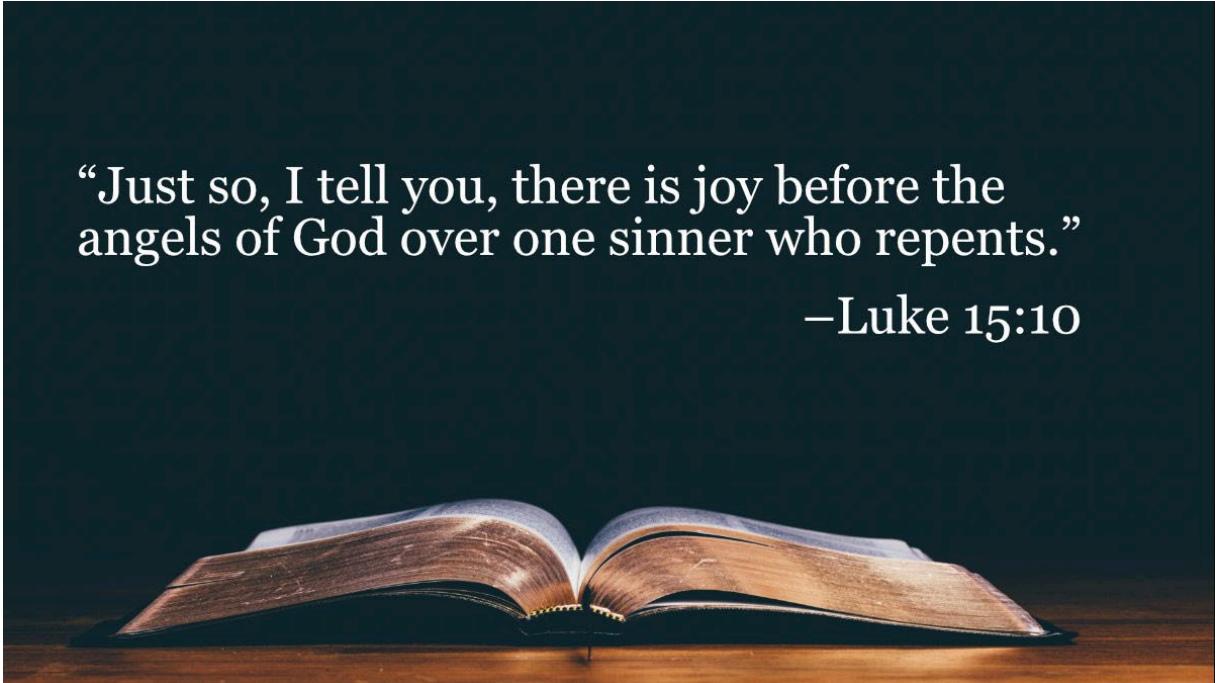
Organized 1871

Celebrating 154 Years of ministry in Columbia, South Carolina

*The Mission of St. Luke's Episcopal Church is to Spread the Word
and share the love of God with all people*

“Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the
angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

—Luke 15:10



The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II

September 14, 2025

10:00AM

The Rev. Raphiell Ashford, Rector & Priest

Mrs. Susan Moffitt, Supply Organist

Vestry Theme for 2025

Reset to the New Normal

Mission Statement

The mission of St. Luke's Episcopal Church is to spread the Word and share the love of God with all.

Vision Statement

{To become} a vibrant self-sustaining institution that serves and respects the spiritual, social, and physical needs of our community and congregation, while preserving the history of the church.

QUIET PLEASE: Please be mindful of others as you enter the church before the service. Upon entering the nave, there should be a period of quiet and reverence as many parishioners are in prayer and or meditation.

OFFERINGS can be made online
<https://onrealm.org./StLukesEpiscopa59532/Give>

QR CODE FOR GIVING



*Use your phone to hold over the image

Saint Luke's Episcopal Church



It is the parish custom to observe silence prior to the start of the Eucharist. Be thoughtful, be silent, be reverent, for this is the House of God. Before the service, speak to the Lord, during the service, let the Lord speak to you; after the service, speak to one another.

We invite you to join us as an active participant in our worship of God.

This bulletin is your guide to our worship. You will find three books in front of you that contain most of the material needed for this service. We will use *The Book of Common Prayer* [BCP], *The Hymnal 1982* [H], and *Lift Every Voice and Sing, II* [L]. [S] denotes service music which is found in the front of the hymnal.

Prelude

“The Vesper Voluntaries No 26”

Edward Elgar

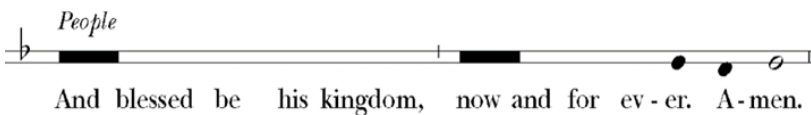
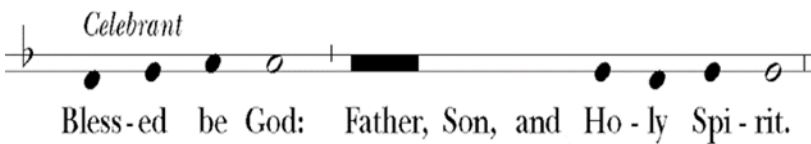
✠ indicates where to make the sign of the cross

**At the ringing of the bell, all stand.

THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn in Procession H • 410 “Praise, my Soul, the King of Heaven” *Lauda anima*

The Opening Acclamation



✠Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The Collect for Purity

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit; that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Gloria S. 280

Robert Powell

✠ “in the glory of God the Father. Amen.”

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**The people sit.*

The First Lesson

Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28

Lector: A reading from the book of Jeremiah

At that time it will be said to this people and to Jerusalem: A hot wind comes from me out of the bare heights in the desert toward my poor people, not to winnow or cleanse-- a wind too strong for that. Now it is I who speak in judgment against them. "For my people are foolish, they do not know me; they are stupid children, they have no understanding. They are skilled in doing evil, but do not know how to do good." I looked on the earth, and lo, it was waste and void; and to the heavens, and they had no light. I looked on the mountains, and lo, they were quaking, and all the hills moved to and fro. I looked, and lo, there was no one at all, and all the birds of the air had fled. I looked, and lo, the fruitful land was a desert, and all its cities were laid in ruins before the Lord, before his fierce anger. For thus says the Lord: The whole land shall be a desolation; yet I will not make a full end. Because of this the earth shall mourn,

and the heavens above grow black; for I have spoken, I have purposed; I have not relented nor will I turn back..

[Silence]

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 14 *Dixit insipiens*

**The antiphon is sung first by the Cantor and then by all; thereafter where indicated.*



A1 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." *

All are corrupt and commit abominable acts;
there is none who does any good.

A2 The LORD looks down from heaven upon us all, *

to see if there is any who is wise,
if there is one who seeks after God.

B3 Every one has proved faithless;

all alike have turned bad; *

there is none who does good; no, not one.

{Antiphon}



A4 Have they no knowledge, all those evildoers *
who eat up my people like bread
and do not call upon the LORD?

A5 See how they tremble with fear, *
because God is in the company of the righteous.

B6 Their aim is to confound the plans of the afflicted, *
but the LORD is their refuge. {Antiphon}

B7 Oh, that Israel's deliverance would come out of Zion! *
when the LORD restores the fortunes of his people,
Jacob will rejoice and Israel be glad. {Antiphon}

The Epistle

1 Timothy 1:12-17

Lector: A reading from the first Letter of Paul to Timothy

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he judged me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners-- of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience, making me an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

[Silence]

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Sequence Hymn H • 423 “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise” *St. Denio*

The Gospel Acclamation “A Celtic Alleluia” Finnian O’Carroll

*Sung first by the Cantor; then by all.



"Stay awake and be ready!

For you do not know on what day your Lord will come." (Mt.24:42)

The Holy Gospel

Luke 15:1-10

Priest ✠The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. "Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Raphiell Ashford

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

✠ "and the life of the world to come. Amen."

The Prayers of the People

Form III

BCP 387

✠ "Give to the departed eternal rest."

The Confession of Sin & Absolution

BCP 360

✠ "forgive you all your sins ..."

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Announcements, Birthday, & Anniversary Blessings

Fr. Raphiell+

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory Anthem “If Tongues of Men and Angels Sing” arr. Mark Schweizer
(based on I Corinthians 13)

At the Presentation of Alms “Glory Be to the Father”

Greatorex

**All standing*

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. The score is divided into three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: "Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, A - men." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. The score ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the

Ho - ly Ghost; as it was in the be - gin - ning, is

now, and ev - er shall be, world with - out end. A - men, A - men.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer “C”

BCP 369

**The people remain standing.*

Sursum corda

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

**The Celebrant proceeds*

Sanctus et Benedictus

from *A Community Mass*; Proulx

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

✠ “Blessed is he ...”

**After the Sanctus, the people may stand or kneel.*

The Prayer of Consecration

BCP 372

(At the invoking of the Holy Spirit);

“Let the grace of this Holy Communion ✠make us one body ...”

The Great Amen

*The Priest sings the first “Amen.”

AMEN



Music: *Jubilation Mass*, James Chepponis, © 1999, GIA Publications, Inc.

The Lord's Prayer (*Pater Noster*) L · 265

**The priest sings the Pater Noster.*

Carl Haywood
from *A Mass for Grace*

The Breaking of the Bread

*A period of brief silence is kept.

The Fraction Anthem

“Christ Our Passover”

Thaddeus P. Cavouti
from *Mass of St. Columba*



Agnus Dei

Priest Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

People Have mercy upon us

Priest Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world,

People Have mercy upon us

Priest Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.

People Grant us thy peace.

Priest ✠ The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Instructions for Receiving Communion

- *All baptized persons are welcome to receive Communion, and those who do not desire to receive Communion may come to the Altar rail to receive God's blessing.*
- *An usher will direct you to approach the Altar for Communion or a blessing. Please kneel, if you are able, at the Altar Rail.*
- *To receive the consecrated bread, extend your hands upward, palms crossed and facing up.*
- *To receive the consecrated wine, please guide the chalice to your lips as it is offered. However, if you prefer, you may leave the consecrated bread in your palm and the Chalice bearer will intinct the host into the wine and place it on your tongue. Please do not personally intinct the host into the chalice.*
- *If you desire to receive Communion but are not able to come to the Altar rail, please notify an usher and the Priest and Chalice bearer will bring Communion to you.*

The Music at Communion

H♦ 706 "In Your Mercy, Lord, You Called Me" *Halton Holgate*

H♦ 334 "Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing" *Alles ist an Gottes Segen*

H♦ 646 "The King of Love my Shepherd Is" *Dominus regit me*

The Post Communion Hymn

H♦ 473 "Lift High the Cross" *Crucifer*

The Post Communion Prayer

**All kneel as able or sit.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

Go forth into the world in peace. Be of good courage. Hold fast to that which is good. Render to no-one evil for evil. Strengthen the faint-hearted. Support the weak. Help the afflicted. Show love to everyone. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; And the blessing of Almighty God, ✠ the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Hymn in Procession H•448

“O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High” *Deus tuorum militum*

The Dismissal

Priest	Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People	Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Fantasy on the Hymn “Holy, Holy, Holy”

Piet Post

*It is the custom of this parish to remain seated in prayer and reflection during the Organ Postlude. If you need to leave, please do so quietly.

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Rachel Hall in memory of her mother Elizabeth Hull Hall and her friend Christina Marie Summer.

Parish Fellowship is sponsored by the the Commission on Parish Fellowship.

INTERCESSIONS



- **Parishioners:** Charles W. Blakely, Gary Bowden, John Bowden, Damion Cokley, Patricia Cokley, Carole Cooper, Gloria Eaddy, Eddie Glenn, Cynthia Goines, Robert Green, Yvonne Hall, Daryl Hammonds, Jr., Desmond Hammonds, Valencia Hammonds, Tarnez Hickman, Justin Hickmon, La'Toya Hickmon, Levi Johnson, Sr., James McLemore, Mary McLemore, Marie Martin, Carmen Murray, Jay'ceon Quattlebaum, Malik Quattlebaum, Joseph Ray, Reginald Reed, Peyton Parker-Smith, William Smith, Jr., Ronald Turner, Dorothy Walker,
 - **Family & Friends:** Ingrid Dowdell, Cynthia Fruth, Gerald L. McNair, Elsie Mitchell, Quintin Morris, Brent Johnson
 - **Diocesan Cycle of Prayer...** Church of the Cross, Columbia; Holy Cross, Simpsonville
 - **Birthdays...** Yvonne Hall (17th)
 - **Anniversaries...**
 - **Births...**
 - **Deaths...**
 - **Traveling Mercies...**
-

SERMON NOTES/QUESTIONS/REFLECTIONS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARISH FELLOWSHIP... Parishioners, Committees, Commissioners, and Groups are encouraged to sign up for at least one Sunday to host Parish Fellowship. For more information, see the sign-up sheet in Griffin Hall or contact Robert Green or Gwendolyn Meadows.

STATEMENT OF MISSION 2026... The Finance Committee Chair and the Treasurer will host a presentation on the 1st draft of the 2026 parish budget on Sunday, October 5th.

THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING... will be attending the Diocesan Fall Assembly. Saturday. September 20, 2025, Fall Assembly (includes all daughters). Location: St. Francis of Assisi Episcopal Church, Chapin, SC; 9:00a.m -3:00p.m.

ST. LUKE'S DAY ANNIVERSARY AD BOOKLET... This year, we will again have the opportunity to place ads in an Anniversary Advertisement Booklet. This is a wonderful way to honor or memorialize loved ones, members, family members and highlight businesses that we patronize. Each member is asked to solicit at least one ad. **(Full Page-\$125, Half Page-\$75, Quarter Page-\$45).** The dimensions of the ads are: (width x length):

Full Page (6" x 9.5")/**Half Page** (6" x 4.75")/**Quarter Page** (2.5" x 4.25")

Ads should be submitted by Sunday, September 21st. For more information and sponsorship opportunities, contact Cynthia Parker Reed or Judy Battiste.

Sponsorship Levels:

The Rev. Absalom Jones - \$1,000 / The Rt. Rev. Barbara C. Harris - \$500

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY/ST. LUKE'S DAY: The Feast of St. Luke (10/18) will be observed on Sunday, October 19th. All parishioners are asked to pay \$154, the age of the parish (officially May 21st). Funds are due by Sunday October 19th, but may be paid at any time before that date. **The Guest Speaker will be Dr. Naida Rutherford, the first Black woman elected coroner for Richland County.**

ST. LUKE'S CHORAL SCHOLARS & BLAKELY-ROBINSON MUSIC FUND...Your contributions are always appreciated and needed more than ever now that the Chorister Fund Deficit is no longer. Contributions to these funds help to secure choristers & instrumentalists for our Sunday services as well as special services: funerals, weddings, etc. It is because of your continued generous contributions that we are able present glorious choral & instrumental music to the glory of God. Please consider contributing towards this fund.

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH BAZAAR...The Quilters & Crafters is sponsoring a bazaar as a fundraiser for St. Luke's Episcopal Church. The purpose of the bazaar is to raise monies for our operating budget. The Bazaar will be held in the O'Neal Center on **Saturday, November 1st from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm.** See the September Newsletter & Bulletin Board in Griffin Hall. As this is All Saints' Day, **the names of all deceased Quilters & Crafters should be submitted to Pat Cokley, by Sunday, October 26th.**

CONFIRMATION DRIVE...The Confirmation Drive will be held during the month of September. Parishioners are asked to pay the dollar amount for each year of confirmation. A list will be posted next Sunday in Griffin Hall in published in the newsletter. The proceeds will go toward paying the Diocesan Assessment. See the bulletin board in Griffin Hall and the September Newsletter. **If everyone participates, we as a parish will raise over \$4,000 to go toward the Diocesan Assessment.**

SERVANTS FOR THE LORD

The Old Testament Lector

Stephanie Baldwin

The Epistoler

Gloria Eaddy

The Gospel Book Bearer

Corliss Wise

Server

Herman Hickman

Intercessor

Amy Husmann

Eucharistic Minister

Corliss Wise

Thurifer

Cory James

Crucifers

Jaylen Caldwell
Herman Hickman

Cantors

Oblation Bearers

Tim Kirby
Trinessa Kirby

Videographer

Deadra Bowden

Ushers

Judy Battiste
Cynthia Goines, James Kelley

Music Acknowledgements & Permission for Use

Psalm Antiphon

from Portland Psalter, Copyright ©2002, Robert A Hawthorne. All rights reserved.

Gospel Acclamation

“A Celtic Alleluia”

Finnian O’Carroll

The Great Amen

from *Jubilation Mass*

James Chepponis

Service music

Opening Acclamation, Gloria, *Sursum corda*, *Sanctus*, & *the Lord’s Prayer*; Permission by RiteSong online music library for one-time use of this material for congregational use.

One License Licensing Permission: Reprinted/Podcast/Streamed with Permission Under One License A-739442; All Rights Reserved.

SEPTEMBER 2025 CALENDAR OF SERVICES, MEETINGS, & EVENTS

SEPTEMBER	SERVICE/MEETING/EVENT	TIME & PLACE
14 th (Sunday)	The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost The Holy Eucharist: Rite II	10:00am Nave
15 th (Monday)	Rector's Day Off	
	Holy Cross Day (Transferred from 8/14)	
16 th (Tuesday)	DOK Study for Potential Members	5:30pm Nave
	Vestry Meeting	6:00pm Griffin Hall
17 th (Wednesday)	Quilters & Crafters	10:00am-1:00pm Griffin Hall
	Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm-7:30pm Hurley Music Room
18 th (Thursday)	Fresh Start Ministry	9:00am-12noon The O'Neal Center
19 th (Friday)	Rector's Sermon Preparation Day, etc.	
20 th (Saturday)		
21 st (Sunday)	The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost The Holy Eucharist: Rite II	10:00am Nave
22 nd (Monday)	Rector's Day Off	
23 rd (Tuesday)	Buildings & Grounds	5:30pm-6:30pm Griffin Hall
	DOK Study for Potential Members	5:30pm Nave
24 th (Wednesday)	Quilters & Crafters	10:00am-1:00pm Griffin Hall
	Choir Rehearsal	6:00pm-7:30pm

		Hurley Music Room
25 th (Thursday)	Fresh Start Ministry	9:00am-12noon The O’Neal Center
	UBE (Union of Black Episcopalians) Interest Group Meeting & Official Formation *All are welcome in UBE	5:30pm Griffin Hall
26 th (Friday)	Rector’s Sermon Preparation Day, etc.	
	Columbia Operatic Laboratory Rehearsal	6:00pm-9:00pm Nave
27 th (Saturday)	4 th Saturday Feeding	12:00noon-1:00pm Griffin Hall Entrance Doorway
28 th (Sunday)	The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost The Holy Eucharist: Rite II	10:00am Nave
29 th (Monday)	Rector’s Day Off	
30 th (Tuesday)	Rector to be the Guest Preacher/Speaker @ Voorhees University Denmark, SC	11:00am St. Philip’s Chapel
	DOK Study for Potential Members	5:30pm Griffin Hall

STEWARDSHIP LETTER

A reading from the first Letter of Fr. Raphiell to the Parishioners of Saint Luke's, Columbia

I, Fr. Raphiell, a servant of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and to all the parishioners who are in St. Luke's, Columbia; Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Stewardship Season is upon us once again. As one person stated, and I agree: "Stewardship season should always be upon us; not just a few months out of the year." Being good stewards requires commitment, faith, and sometimes going beyond that which we originally committed to give. Our giving is a reflection of how we view our parish and commitment to ensure that the foundation continues to be reinforced for those who will come behind us. The old adage states that "one should leave something in a better condition than that in which it was found," or more precisely, "leave it better than you found it." Cynthia Parker Reed and I are working on coming up with a different approach to Stewardship this season. We will not have the usual four speakers as in the past. It is time to reinvent the wheel. The diocese offers resources when it comes to Stewardship, and clergy have access to them. I will definitely start now in terms of planning for next year's Stewardship Drive.

But for now, "now" is upon us as the Rector the Finance Committee begin to discuss the budget for 2026. It takes a certain amount of revenue to keep the parish open. Every institution has its administrative costs and building and maintenance costs, so belaboring those topics each year is not productive or conducive to healthy Christian dialogue. Everyone makes choices in how they spend their resources. The Church should not be last, nor should you withhold your financial support of the Church due to unexpressed feelings and frustrations. This only hurts the Church and eventually, hurts you spiritually. God does not ask much of us, but as the hymn states, "What Does the Lord Require of You?" What sacrifice, desire, or tribute do you bring? Do justly; love mercy; walk humbly with you God.

We could do so much more if we used the time and energy that we spend on finding what is wrong with finding what is right and building upon it. What if we all walked as children of the light? What if we all believed that “All Our Hope on God is Founded?” What if we all prayed, “Lord, make me an instrument of your peace?” What if...

Our landscape, congregational makeup, and geographics around us are changing. We can no longer continue to live in the grand church era of the 1950's and 1960's. St. Luke's is no longer strictly a light skinned, blue veined, white-collar parish. We are a mixture of wonderful sleeves and collars; illuminating hues and varied professions. Every sleeve and every collar are important and imperative for the future of St. Luke's. In addition of financially supporting the church, we must all make an effort to go out into the world and spread the Good News; tell others about the banquet from which you get to feast each week. Many are starving to share to Lord that you get to worship and feast from the Lord's table each week.

Our Confirmation Drive will run through the month of September. The Vestry voted unanimously that the funds raised this year would go toward paying our Diocesan Assessment.

Although we have several other initiatives throughout the year to help raise funds for the parish, these activities and missions should be “in addition to” and not the main source of revenue. You, the parishioners of St. Luke's, are to be the main source for supporting the parish. We cannot always ask others to do what we should be doing for ourselves. Bake sales and other small fundraising ideas are fine, but when a church does what it is supposed to do, these other activities become obsolete in terms of the main source of support for the church. Again, these should be “in addition to.”

Just to give you an example, this past year, most of the donations for Easter lilies and Christmas poinsettias came from persons outside of the parish. Most of the donations for Easter Brass came from outside the parish. We have been gifted many things from the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, and even from the diocese, and Virginia Theological Seminary. BUT there must come a time, and that time is now, when we must stand on our own two feet and reclaim that which

is ours. The first fruits for supporting this historic parish are us. Once we do our part, then we reach out to others to supplement, not to do that which we should be doing.

The Junior Warden spoke candidly after Church today regarding the needs for Building and Grounds. The display will remain in Griffin Hall for the next few Sundays. Please take a moment to look at the display to see what our urgent needs are at the moment, and make an additional pledge to Capital Improvement.

Several line items were omitted from the budget for 2025 that **will not be able to be omitted in 2026 if you want the parish to thrive: line items for Choral Scholars, supply priests, and supply organists just to name a few.** These are necessities for every Episcopal Church; especially those without a volunteer choir, one clergy person and one musician on staff. Ante Communion services are fine when truly needed, but are not meant to be a substitute for the Liturgy of the Word. We cannot continue to chip away at the budget. All of the chipping has been done. We must continue to make it stronger, and this can only be done with your financial support and a true understanding of what it means to be stewards of God and good stewards of that which has been given to us. The bishop has requested to see a copy of the proposed budget before it is approved by the Vestry.

As I close, there will be lots of activity bubbling around the parish, and you will all have an opportunity to be a part of it; this in addition to the work that many of you are already doing on your Committees and Commissions. I will be meeting with each Commission and Committee Chair(s) before the year is over to see what plans you have for 2026. We can no longer say “I’m too busy to do ...” We are all busy! I am constantly in awe the people who in the midst of health issues, caretaking duties, and personal trials who still find time to devote their time, talent, and treasure to the Church. They should serve as an inspiration for us all. It will take all of us working together in order to cross the shore as one vessel. Let us continue to work together, lift each other up in prayer, and offer support, guidance, and grace when and where needed.

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

In the name of the ✠Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

LITURGICAL NOTE

HOLY CROSS DAY (The Feast of the Holy Cross)

A major feast observed on Sept. 14 in honor of Christ's self-offering on the cross for our salvation. The collect for Holy Cross Day recalls that Christ "was lifted high upon the cross that he might draw the whole world unto himself," and prays that "we, who glory in the mystery of our redemption, may have grace to take up our cross and follow him" (BCP, p. 192). The themes of Holy Cross Day are powerfully expressed by the hymn "Lift high the cross" (Hymn 473).

This feast is known as "The Exaltation of the Holy Cross" in the eastern church and in missals and sacramentaries of the western church, and it is known as "The Triumph of the Cross" in the Roman Catholic Church. It was one of the 12 great feasts in the Byzantine liturgy. The 1979 BCP is the first American Prayer Book to include Holy Cross Day.

Historically, the feast has been associated with the dedication on Sept. 14, 335, of a complex of buildings built by the Emperor Constantine (c. 285-337) in Jerusalem on the sites of the crucifixion and Christ's tomb. This shrine included a large basilica and a circular church. Constantine's mother, Helena (c. 255- c. 330), supervised the construction of the shrine, and a relic believed to be the cross was discovered during the work of excavation. Claims by the Church of Jerusalem to have the cross date from the mid-fourth century, and the pilgrim Egeria mentions a feast commemorating the discovery of the cross in Jerusalem in the late-fourth-century. This feast has also been associated with the exposition at Jerusalem of the cross by the Byzantine Emperor Heraclius (575-641). He recovered the relic from the Persians who took it from Jerusalem in 614 when they destroyed the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Although the authenticity of alleged relics of the cross may be questionable, Holy Cross Day provides an opportunity for a joyous celebration of Christ's redeeming death on a cross.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

1300 Pine Street/Columbia, South Carolina 29204
(803) 254-2327

St. Luke's Vestry

Class of 2025

Judy Battiste, *Jr. Warden*
Deadra Bowden
DeNell Hickman
Jean Indriago

Class of 2026

Yvonne Hall
Daryl Hammonds
Joni James
Errol Porter, *Sr. Warden*

Class of 2027

Angela Blalock
Robert Green
Joseph Ray
Rudolph Wise

~

Patricia Ancrum, *Clerk of the Vestry*
Sheryl D. Belcher, *Parish Secretary*

~

Karen Castelli, *Website Administrator*
Shauna Hicks, *Newsletter Editor*
Valerie Riley, *Executive Director—Fresh Start Ministry*

~

Patricia Cokley, *Parish Treasurer*
Darnell Holmes, William Smith, Jr., *Asst. Parish Treasurers*
Sheryl D. Belcher, *Assoc. Parish Treasurer*

stlukescolumbia@gmail.com (Email)
www.facebook.com/stlukescolumbia

<http://www.stlukescolasc.org> (Website)
YouTube: @Fr.Raphiell6290

“The Episcopal Church is a secret too well kept. Many are starved for what we experience daily and too easily take for granted. Invite others to come to your parish to experience this joy.”

Louie Crew, author of *101 Reasons to be Episcopalian*