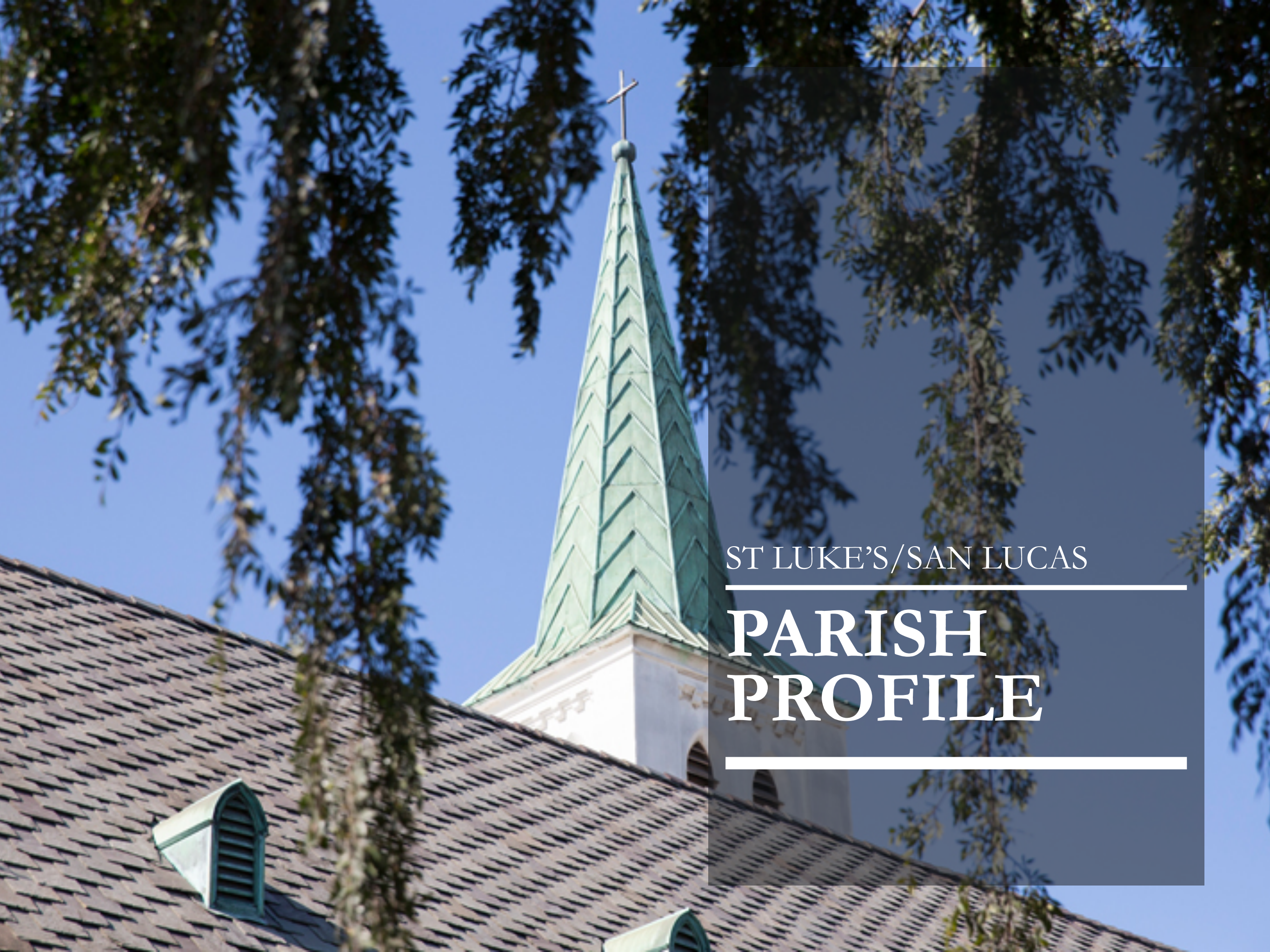




ST LUKE'S/SAN LUCAS

PARISH PROFILE

Vision, Mission, and Values

Vision

We are a Beloved Community that aspires to live and love like Jesus Christ to create mutual healing and transformation in the world

Mission

We journey with a loving, compassionate and justice-seeking Jesus, striving to: fully affirm everyone; joyfully embrace diversity; courageously pursue spiritual and social transformation; willingly accept challenges; repair the hurt we cause; and equip everyone to make God's vision for the world a reality.

Values

Radical Inclusion

Joyful Faith and Spirituality

Relentless Doing Good

Authentic Discipleship

Divine Transformation



Welcome

St. Luke's/San Lucas Episcopal Church, located in downtown Long Beach, is a community consistently aspiring to our vision statement; to live and love like Jesus Christ to create mutual healing and transformation in the world. St Luke's/San Lucas is a multicultural, bilingual congregation with services in both English and Spanish. This congregation has a rich historical background, love for tradition, deep-rooted faith and a strong commitment to social justice and radical inclusion of all God's people. These values are manifested in our multiple outreach ministries including Saturday showers and meals for the homeless and Sunday morning gate monitors to protect vulnerable congregants from harm. Our congregation also has a deep passion for spiritual formation and education which is seen in our weekly Bible Studies and healing service as well as in seasonal programs such as Summer House Church. St Luke's/San Lucas, like many churches, has been navigating immense change since COVID including staff turnover and dealing with the realities of an aging population.

Additionally our church wrestles with serving our unhoused neighbors and keeping our sidewalks safe, clean, and crime-free. We are looking for a new Rector that continues to grow our church, raises up new leadership, deepens our spiritual connection, and is able to inspire and care for our multifaceted and dynamic organization. In this profile we will continue to explore these aspects in further detail.

History

The history of St. Luke's/San Lucas Episcopal Church in Long Beach is a story of physical resilience, architectural beauty, and a deep-seated legacy of progressive social activism. Located at 525 E. 7th St., Long Beach, CA 90813 on the corner of Atlantic Avenue, St. Luke's/San Lucas has evolved over nearly 130 years from a small pioneer mission into a vibrant center for radical hospitality and community action.

Long Beach was just a young, rapidly growing seaside resort town when St. Luke's/San Lucas was founded on June 27, 1897. The church building was

originally built on its current site in 1917, but was destroyed in the 1933 earthquake. Reverend Perry G.M. Austin, rector of the church at the time, led a rebuilding campaign that attracted nationwide support. Famous donors to our current church campus included Eleanor Roosevelt, J.P. Morgan, Felix duPont, Judge Augustus Hand and Senator Walter G. McAdoo.

The new church complex was designed by architect C.T. McGrew in the English Tudor Gothic Revival style. The grounds include a courtyard and a towering spire that remains a city landmark to this day. The cornerstone for the new church was laid just one year after the earthquake, on March 19, 1934.

In 1930, the Choristers boy's choir was organized at St. Luke's/San Lucas by music



conductor William Ripley Dorr. By 1950, they had appeared in over 90 movies including *A Christmas Carol* (1938), *Babies on Broadway* with Judy Garland (1941) and *The Bells of St. Mary's* (1945).

In our more recent history beginning in the 1990s, St. Luke's/San Lucas began to shift its focus outward, moving from a standard neighborhood parish to one explicitly defined by our intersection with social justice.

A major turning point occurred during the 1992 Los Angeles Riots which included rioting, looting and burning in Long Beach. St. Luke's/San Lucas was in the middle of it all. Our parish responded by forming a deep, intentional alliance with a local Black congregation, *The Family Church*. The two churches shared services, organized community outreach together, and held difficult conversations during the months following the riots. This experience paved the way for how St. Luke's would approach racial and social reconciliation moving forward.

In the 21st century, St. Luke's/San Lucas cemented its reputation for "radical inclusion," regularly stepping into the local and national spotlight for its advocacy work.

St. Luke's/San Lucas became one of the most prominent faith-based advocates for LGBTQ+ rights in Southern California. Recognizing the historical trauma many queer individuals experience in religious settings, St. Luke's/San Lucas sought to reverse that narrative. Every year, St. Luke's/San Lucas kicks off Long Beach Pride by hosting a massive, outdoor worship service on the ocean bluffs. Additionally, in October 2010, following a

tragic national wave of LGBTQ+ youth suicides due to bullying, St. Luke's/San Lucas hosted a highly publicized, community-wide "Coming Out Celebration" to explicitly signal that the church was a safe, affirming sanctuary for all.

In 2007, our bookstore opened. In the same year, St. Luke's/San Lucas became a leader of the *New Sanctuary Movement*. The church provided physical sanctuary inside our buildings to an undocumented mother facing deportation. Parishioners also assisted her with legal aid. They protected her from being separated from her U.S.-citizen children and used the incident to advocate for systemic immigration reform, asserting that keeping families together is a fundamental part of our faith.

A few years later in 2014, our beloved Summer House Church started, offering us another way to strengthen our community and our spiritual connection.

Today, St. Luke's/San Lucas operates as a fully multicultural, bilingual (English/Spanish) parish. During the COVID-19 pandemic, while many institutions completely closed their doors, St.

Luke's/San Lucas continued running our legendary Saturday Shower Program and monthly Manna Meals (brunch) for unhoused neighbors without a single week of interruption.

While we face challenges today, our strong history has prepared us to continue moving forward in service to God and our community. Together, we seek a strong Rector who can support us in our mission.



Our Parish and Key Programs

Worship and Spiritual Life

We gather for three services (8am, 10am and 12:30pm) each

Sunday, and on the 4th Sunday of the month we combine our 10am and 12:30pm services together at 11am for a bilingual service that fosters unity across our diverse family. Collaborative teams prepare our worship space in a way that welcomes all. We interpret Scripture in a Jesus-

centered way and value preaching that reinforces his message of freedom and love. We explore scripture through weekly English and Spanish Bible Studies. Our Thursday healing service surrounds those in need with our heart felt prayers. We rest in Christ's presence in a Taizé Prayer



service (held online) which provides an hour of restorative silence, music, and prayers.

Community and Fellowship

We extend God's love through fellowship and food after the 10am and 12:30pm services. Our LGBTQ+ Fellowship Ministry celebrates all identity journeys—including our trans siblings—through community events such as summer BBQs and our presence at the Long Beach Pride parade. For deeper discipleship, our Migration Group Book Ministry reflects monthly on contemporary Christianity, while our Summer House Church hosts 6 Wednesday night dinners for safe, small-group spiritual sharing.

Outreach Ministries

Our casserole crew prepares hot dishes every Thursday, and Manna Meals serves festive, music-filled lunches to over 150 neighbors in need on the fourth Saturday of the month. Operating Saturday mornings, our Shower and Laundry Program partners with local organizations to provide hot showers, hygiene supplies, and free laundry services to restore dignity to our most vulnerable neighbors. This works hand-in-hand with our Parish Nursing team, which offers critical foot and wound care



alongside an accessible medical kiosk and Red Cross blood drives. Nearby, volunteers and shower guests work side-by-side in our Community Garden, cultivating deep relationships. As a Sanctuary Church, we stand in firm solidarity with undocumented immigrants, offering refuge, material support, and faithful accompaniment on their journeys toward independence.

Education and Creative Arts

Serving as a cornerstone for building lasting relationships, our bookstore functions as a welcoming hub for literature on theology, liturgy, and church history. Our annual Brass Rubbing Medieval Arts Center Ministry serves as an educational outreach that brings history to life for local students and adults while acting as a unique fundraiser for our sacred space. In the past we have nurtured children and youth through Sunday School, confirmation, youth group activities, and family hangouts. Most of these offerings are on hold while we wait for enough children and resources to resume. Children who exercise their faith bring renewal to our entire church, and we want to make this an important priority moving forward.

Challenges and Opportunities of the Parish

St. Luke's/San Lucas, like all churches, faces its share of challenges and obstacles. There is a diversity of opinions about these challenges and how to address them among congregants. Across the board, though, is a sense that these challenges are also opportunities for our congregation to grow more deeply into Beloved Community.

As a multicultural and multilingual congregation, we are committed to continuing our growth as a unified community. We are learning how to embrace diversity and make sure that the English-speaking and Spanish-speaking groups both have equal access to vibrant worship.

One of the more consistently voiced challenges is the presence of encampments of unhoused people on the sidewalk outside of campus. While we are committed to radical inclusion of our unhoused neighbors, there is a consistent



vocal concern that the encampments are disruptive to worship as well as a source of unsanitary debris and illegal activity that pose danger to congregants. There is a diversity of responses to the encampments. Some have argued that St. Luke's leadership should partner with law enforcement to dispel the encampments; others argue that we should work to build stronger relationships with those in the encampments to show them a deeper commitment to inclusion and love. The encampments have also strained our relationship with surrounding businesses and residents. The Vestry is currently working on a Safety and Security Plan that will change how we manage the encampments in a more direct way.

St. Luke's/San Lucas is home to over forty ministries. These ministries often rely on a small handful of people who are aging and facing health concerns or by individuals stretched thin by their current commitments. Many have voiced concern about volunteer burnout and worry about what will happen to these ministries if leaders and resources aren't available. This is an opportunity for our congregation to prioritize our key ministries and to ensure we have leaders and resources to support them.

One of the major goals shared by congregants was to draw more people to our church. There has been some concern over the drop in attendance since the pandemic, and even though our population trends mirror those of most mainline churches, there is concern that it might not be sustainable. Specifically, there is an interest in attracting families with children and youth to our church. Demographically, St. Luke's/San Lucas has a more elderly population and there are concerns that we will not be able to maintain our population or income without new families. Some have expressed concerns that the encampments outside of campus are a deterrent for families, newcomers, and evening hosted church events..

Finances

St. Luke's/San Lucas Episcopal Church enters 2026 from a position of financial stability. This parish has managed budget pressures in recent years with disciplined expense management, prudent use of reserves, and generous donor support. While the church is not facing any immediate financial crisis, we recognize some traditional revenue sources are

becoming less dependable. We hope to find a way to proactively look at strengthening the church's long-term financial sustainability.

St Luke's/San Lucas revenue is generated from 4 main sources: pledges, apartment rental income, investments and office rental spaces.

The most significant financial trend over the past two years has been growing pressure on recurring operating revenue. During 2024, pledge income finished nearly \$30,000 below budget, while rental income declined by approximately \$16,000 due to multiple vacant office spaces. Although expense reductions and other revenues softened the impact, leadership recognized these losses could not become a long-term pattern. As a result, over the past two budget cycles, leadership reduced discretionary spending for property improvements, hospitality, technology, audiovisual enhancements, and restructured the parish administrator position from full-time to part-time.

Financial performance improved during 2025, with the church finishing the year near break-even. Stewardship also reached an important milestone, with the congregation achieving 100% of its annual

pledge goal for the first time during Father Antonio's tenure.

Despite this progress, leadership identifies several long-term risks. Nearly 30% of annual pledge income comes from only four families, all in their eighties, creating significant succession risk. Rental revenue continues to lag because of a weak office market, aging facilities, and complications resulting from the encampments around the St. Luke's/San Lucas property. Together, these issues highlight the need to diversify recurring revenue and focus on improving the campus to support existing income streams.

Although our budget was reduced, during 2024 and 2025, St. Luke's/San Lucas completed significant improvements to the Shower Program's courtyard, Genesis Land (the playground/garden area next to the church), the Sexton's apartment, ADA accessibility, campus security, lighting, and technology. Because many of these items were funded through grants and designated gifts solicited for these projects, the church strengthened its facilities without placing significant pressure on unrestricted operating funds.

Overall, our financial documents portray a



church that remains financially healthy but operates with a narrower margin than in previous years. Our upcoming rector transition also provides an opportunity to reassess long-term financial priorities. The congregation recognizes the need to diversify funding sources in response to an aging donor base and a stagnant office rental market while remaining faithful to St. Luke's/San Lucas mission.

Our Next Rector

St. Luke's/San Lucas Episcopal Parish seeks a Rector to walk with us into the next season of our life together — a leader of deep faith and generous spirit who finds joy in the breadth of God's people.

We hope to call someone grounded in a progressive understanding of our faith, who honors the diversity of thought within our congregation — a bridge-builder who helps us stay open to one another and grow through our differences rather than in spite of them. We are a culturally diverse parish, and we seek a rector who receives that diversity as a gift, one that enriches both our congregation and our neighbors. As a part of our

commitment to diversity, we expect our next rector to fully embrace our Associate Rector Yohanes Cobiellas who has immigrated from Cuba to join our leadership team in 2024. He has been instrumental in connecting our English and Spanish congregants, engaging the Spanish speaking parishioners in deep meaningful spiritual formation, and a steadying presence during this uncertain Rector transition process.

We long for a strategic leader who can help us strengthen our church to welcome and support newcomers and families. We hope for a rector who will guide us toward the key things God is calling us to do exceptionally well, rather than stretching ourselves thin across too many good intentions.

In recent years, we have had significant turnover in the music director/organist position for the 10am service and are currently in the process of searching for a new music director/organist to start 2027. We hope our new Rector will support a vibrant music ministry as an essential element of our worship.

We hope for a teacher who can imagine



spiritual formation for all ages. A rector that supports our love of learning and grows and stretches our faith and understanding through sermons, programs, and other ministries. Above all, we seek a Rector with the warmth and gifts to build connections — within our parish, throughout our

community, and in our shared ministry. We hope to call someone who will help us deepen our care for one another and extend that same care outward, so that every person who comes through our doors finds a genuine and meaningful welcome.

We believe God is preparing someone for this call, and we look forward with hope to the ministry we will share.

How to Apply

We are very excited to have you consider St. Luke's/San Lucas as your next ministry. We believe you will find a warm and welcoming community ready to enter into the next phase of our ministry as the body of Christ. Please take a look at our website, particularly the section "[New Rector Search](#)" to learn more about St. Luke's/San Lucas. We hope that after your review, you will find us to be the next step in your spiritual journey.