



Luke's Log

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As we begin 2023, I look back on 2022 and observe that it was another challenging year for us at St. Luke's. This will be our future until we decide what we want to do. We are in the position of many churches in our diocese and across dioceses, small churches, aging congregation, and limited resources. I have tried to look at our situation with clarity and honesty. Here are some of the options that I see for us:

1. We don't have enough people who are contributing or willing to contribute enough to sustain us going forward. We are looking at significant deficits in the foreseeable future.
2. We have a very skinny budget, not much can be trimmed.
3. We have a trust that we tap to fill the deficit but the trust is small and will not sustain us for very long, approximately 10 years if we are careful.
4. Our most expensive item in our budget is the priest who is 3/4 time.
5. Parish vs. Mission
5. Everyone contributes a dollar each week, we pray and play. Win the Lotto!

I know the situation looks grim but we have to take a hard and honest look at it and not continue to kick the can down the road hoping for it to go away. In order to fix the problem, we have to acknowledge it. Right now, we don't have enough money for our budget and will have to request a distribution from the trust to function. Our budget has little or no fat to trim. We can choose what to cut but it will be challenging. The most expensive item is clergy. Again, a choice we have to make. We can also choose to become a mission. We are currently a parish. The difference between the two is autonomy. The parish is self-governing, and the mission is governed by the diocese. The diocese selects a priest in conjunction with the Bishops Committee-Vestry of the church as well as decisions.

I think we need to pray for God's guidance as to who we need to be. We really need to think freely, without fear about our options. Let's talk about it.

Thank you to all of you for your support, trust and hard work in 2022. Without the help of so many of you, St. Luke's would not be able to do all that we do. Thank you to our Administrator, Vestry, Treasurer, Sexton, Altar Guild, Ushers, Gardening Angels, and everyone else, seen and unseen. My heartfelt thanks.



Special points of interest:

- Rector's Report
- More information inside!

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Special Dates & Events

- Feb. 2** (Th.) The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple
- Feb. 11** (Sat.) 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Vestry/BAC Formation Day at Trinity, Ashland
- Feb. 12** (Sun.) Lincoln's Birthday
- Feb. 14** (Tu.) Valentine's Day
- Feb. 19** (Sun.) 9:00 a.m. Morning Prayer, Rite II
- Feb. 20** (Mon.) Presidents Day — Office closed
- Feb. 21** (Tu.) 5:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting
- Feb. 22** (Wed.) Washington's Birthday; 12:15 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service in the sanctuary
- Feb. 24** (Fri.) St. Matthias the Apostle
- Feb. 26** (Sun.) First Sunday in Lent

- Regularly Scheduled:** Daughters of the King — 6:30 p.m. 2nd and 4th Mon.
- All subject to change.** Men's Breakfast at Herb's — 8:30 a.m. 1st and 3rd Wed. @ Herb's
- Gardening Angels — 10-12 noon 1st Sat. unless otherwise noted,
- Needle & Thread — 9:00 a.m. every Mon.
- Vestry — 5:30 p.m. every 3rd Tuesday
- Social Justice Committee — 4:00 p.m. 4th Tues.
- Book Discussion — most Sundays after the 9:00 a.m. service
- Worship Advisory Committee — Sunday after the service, every other month
- Services:** 12:15 p.m. Wednesday — Mid-week Holy Eucharist
- Holy Eucharist, Rite II — 9:00 a.m. every Sunday

Social Justice Committee Report — by Committee Members

The committee continued to support the Ministry in the Park, Rogue Retreat and Foundry Village with donations, meals, and volunteer time. At the recommendation of Bishop Diana, the committee supported the development of a Land Acknowledgement that is now read at each service. Committee member Diana Robertson provided the outline of the Land Acknowledgement that we now use. We also recognized our need to continue to educate ourselves regarding the history and culture of the Indigenous people of Southern Oregon. Diana Robertson created a story board regarding the history of the local people. The committee also developed a relevant reading list that was made available at the church. Nik Grimsby organized and led a book group that read Robin Wall Kimmerer's *Braiding Sweetgrass*. This past week the committee with the support of our congregation participated in the federally sponsored "Point in Time Count." The theme for our table was "Warming Our Neighbors."



Myrna, Faulken, Frankie, Laura, Shannyn



- 5 Karen Aber, Mimi Johnston
- 11 Todd Calvert, Laura Dunwald-Uhlig
- 9 Starr Hungate
- 23 Jim Huber, Tim Roberts
- 24 Vonnie Hardy

Senior Warden's Report — by Hana Rubens

Dear St. Luke's Family,

“So Christ gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up.... “ Ephesians 4:11-12 (NIV)

“Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity
of every human being? I will, with God's help.” (Baptismal Covenant)

What is Church? What are we called to do?

When I reflect on the life of St. Luke's in 2022, I catch a glimpse of faith in action, and fidelity in the lives of my sisters and brothers which gives hope and strength to move into the future... and to face the challenges to come.

In 2022 we continued to provide live streaming of our Worship Services as we rejoice in our ability to meet together again.

Christian Formation through Bible Study and Book Studies is offered regularly.

Pastoral Care with Home visits (upon request) and check-ins for home bound parishioners is provided faithfully.

Although our budget has impacted our Music Ministry, through the efforts of Alison Huber and the technical savvy of Rev. Ernestein, we are able to praise God in song (most of the time.)

The Altar Guild, the Quilting Group, the Social Justice Committee, The Pastoral Care Committee, the Coffee Hour Sponsors and your Vestry are the very signs of the work that is always going on.

Empowered by faith, St. Luke's members advocate for justice in Grants Pass and serve on various committees in the larger Church.

We have provided food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless, a restroom for those locked out of human decency. We have prayed and loved and struggled... and we will continue to do so.

Finances continue to be a challenge. This year we had our first Rummage Sale (thank you Margaret, Laurel and all who worked on it) since the pandemic and it was very successful. We also receive a grant from the Diocese to replace the fans in the church. Having expended the EBOF grant we received before COVID closed the physical church, we are looking at possibilities for the upcoming year. But fundraising remains a critical issue. This year we must develop a financial plan (which acknowledges current realities) while keeping our faithful presence alive. As you are aware, we are not alone in this challenge.

And speaking of challenges, I wish to express my gratitude to some among us who have answered many of our challenges with their faithful service: Concetta Buckner, Susan Lee Hall, Bridget Garvin, Lynn Hughes, Laurel Samson, Nik Grimsby, Alison Huber, Merle Berry, Margaret James, Bill Cowell, Altar Guild folks—thank you for all that you have done. We love you and are grateful for you. And thank you, Rev. Ernestein, for equipping us for works of service.

Although we are small, our presence (and thus the presence of God in this city of Grants Pass) has grown through the ministry of our church.

Grace & Peace, Hana Rubens

Rector's Report *(continued)*

The official retirement age in the Episcopal Church is 72, I am 70. That's gives me two years before the official retirement age. There is a shortage of priests, so even though it's the retirement age, many priests work beyond retirement with the consent of their dioceses and congregations. I have not decided what I will do, and there are multiple factors that will determine what and how much I will do. Health will be a major factor too but I know that I will not work full time. I still enjoy doing what I do so I'm waiting for God's guidance as to where my next call will be.

I believe that with faith and trust in God's plan for us, 2023 will be a good year for us as St. Luke's.
Faithfully submitted,

Ernestine C. Flemister †
Rector

Junior Warden's Report — by Susan Lee Hall

2023 was an eventful year for St. Luke's in terms of the building which is the Junior Warden's concern. We had two pieces of siding come off the building, raising concerns that the church might have to have all new siding. Fortunately, after repairing the siding, it was determined by professionals that there was no need for that much intervention.

Due to a grant from the Diocese (thank you **Juli Mimnaugh** and **Hana Rubens**) we've had fans installed in the sanctuary. They can be turned on and off by remote control and move the air upwards in summer and downwards in winter, giving us some savings on our electrical bill.

After our porta potty behind the church mysteriously disappeared twice, the Vestry decided to look for a local company to service our needs. We found one which cost less and has been adequate for our needs and is local.

Problems with our furnace have been an on-going saga. After multiple attempts (and many short term "solutions") to get the system to function properly, we changed HVAC providers. This provider fixed the furnace, and it has been working ever since.

Issues of safety and security have become important not just for St. Luke's, but for the Diocese as a whole. A part of our response to that has been to lock all access to the church after services start except the front entrance, with the Usher minding the Vestibule to let in people who want to come to the service.

The Diocese of Oregon, under the direction of Bishop Diana, will be moving to promote more energy efficient and environmentally responsible use of natural resources throughout the diocese. This is something that will come under the purview of the next Junior Warden.

Thank you for all your help during my time of service as your Junior Warden. It was a good and challenging time, but I enjoyed serving you.

Susan Lee Hall

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St. Luke's Episcopal Church publishes Luke's Log monthly. **Submit articles to our email address or to the parish office by the 20th of the month.** For more information, visit our website above.

IDENTITY STATEMENT FOR ST. LUKE'S

St. Luke's Episcopal Church is a community of diverse and unique Individuals and families, joined together in the Body of Christ. We are a family united by worship, discovering God's purpose in our lives and using our gifts in service to him, to one another, and to the world. We are committed to be welcoming and open to all, without regard to race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, age, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, disability or genetic information.

We are the people of God and a community seeking to live out the truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We seek to love God and our neighbors as we love ourselves. We want to build collaborative and creative partnerships with our community to truly make it the beloved community of God. We encounter God in word and sacrament, in music and prayer, and in one another.

We offer opportunities for education, spiritual growth, service, fellowship, and the giving and receiving of pastoral care.

We seek, through worship and service, to show forth in the world the healing power of Jesus's love.



**ST. LUKE'S SERVICE
SUNDAY MORNING***

9:00 a.m. Morning
Prayer, Rite II

WEDNESDAY

12:15 p.m. Mid-week
Eucharist in Chapel

**ST. LUKE'S MISSION
STATEMENT**

*To do God's work, we
extend ourselves joyfully
in Christ's name to one
another, our community,
and the world.*

**ST. LUKE'S
OFFICE HOURS**

M-Th 9 am-1 pm
Closed Friday
541-476-2493

THE REV. ERNESTEIN C. FLEMISTER, RECTOR
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ST. LUKE'S OFFICERS & VESTRY

Hana Rubens, Sr. Warden (2024)
Dennis James, Jr. Warden (2026)
Laurel Samson, Treasurer
Nik Grimsby, Clerk of the Vestry
Louis Delp (2026)
Alison Huber (2026)
Krista Meade (2024)
Dave Robertson (2024)