



HORIZON

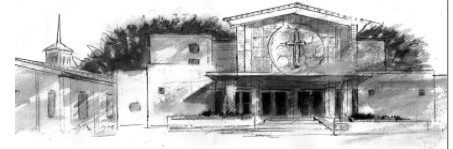
monthly newsletter

St. Luke Lutheran Church

9100 Menaul Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112

505.299.2621 Email: stluke@thuntek.net Website: stlukeabq.org

Rooted in God's Word, Serving in God's World



ST LUKE WORSHIP SERVICES

The Lord's Supper is shared at all weekend services.

Nursery care available during services

Saturday at 5 PM

And Simultaneous Live-stream service at StLukeABQ.org

Sunday at 8:15 AM Worship Service

Sunday at 10:30 AM Worship Service

Christian Education: Sundays, between services

- ◆ 9:15 - 9:35 AM Salt & Spark, in church; then proceed to Godly Play and Kids Spark classrooms
- ◆ 9:15 AM Adult Forum, in Zuni room
- ◆ 9:30 AM Confirmation: Youth 7th grd & up, in Fellowship Hall

Love God - Love Neighbor Event: January 12, at St. Luke

Pastor Brad Ponders ...

The Matthew Christmas Story . . .

"Fear not, I bring you glad tidings"

- read Matthew 1:18-25



We heard Saint Luke's story of Christmas on Christmas Eve. Now ponder with me the Saint Matthew Christmas story! Matthew's story is less familiar and less tender than Luke's. Matthew's story is hard-edged, realistic filled with fears, crisis, and doubts. It fits our times. It acknowledges our realities and ambiguities. In Matthew's story, we hear the angel's words (echoed -over and over again- in the scriptures, both Old Testament and New Testament) specifically spoken therein to Joseph: "Do not be afraid." It is this word I want you to hear this Christmas season 2024-2025 as the year turns to January's Feast of the Epiphany. For this word, "Fear not!" spoken long ago, is also a word also addressed to us.

This "fear not" life-transforming word was spoken into all the fears and anxieties of both Joseph and Mary, the Bible's central Christmas story characters. It is also spoken to us. This word can teach us. It is certainly a word for an anxious Interim time of "vacancy." It is a word for all times. We can learn to put away our fears about the future because the promised One of God, our Emmanuel, our Savior Jesus, has come to live among us and is "with us." "*Emmanuel, you're one of us!*" sings a newer contemporary Christian worship song. For in Jesus the Christ, Joseph's child, Mary's child, God is "with us" strong to save. God had a plan for them, then. God has a plan for us now. God has a plan for an incredible future ahead.

Continued next page

Pastor Brad Ponders the Matthew Christmas Story ... continued from previous page

Like any good writer, Matthew does not merely assert his theme; he shows us what it means in the lives of different characters, how a word is spoken into every situation of fears and dread in the story: Mary's, Joseph's, Bible's characters. This story provides a strong word and answer to the real questions about/ challenges to faith and believing, the real crises of fidelity (a pregnancy before marriage, apparent unfaithfulness, the dashing of hopes and the canceling of promises), real poverty and spiritual need, real political oppression, international chaos and intrigue and exorbitant taxation. Into these fears and crises, in the year Bethlehem Year -0-, a word comes,

"Do not be afraid."

Matthew shows us how fears we have can be dispelled, through our faith and trust, because of the promise- word from our gracious God, by God's word that replaces anxious worry and the bad news with a good news gospel word for them (in the story) and us. Take Joseph, for example. His wedding plans have just crashed. Mary is pregnant before they have lived together even though they are now engaged and legally bound, a crisis of fidelity and trust (the marriage, which probably took place at the Rabbi's home in Nazareth, is not remembered in the Bible's story). We know that Joseph is full of anxiety. Despite his plan to "put Mary away quietly," –via a hasty, quiet divorce—as he sleeps, an angel in a dream commands him, "Don't be afraid." There is that word, again! A word comes to him that dispels fear and awakens hopes. Joseph is invited to act out of faith. Faith affirms, for example, that God can light up the darkness, bind up wounds, feed the hungry, free captives, and gather people together. The angel's words to Joseph, suggests Matthew, are God's own Word to Joseph and US.

That same message, "fear not" came beforehand to old King Ahaz of Judah in 735 BC, inviting King Ahaz to trust a word of promise that a remnant-people of God's choosing, then in Exile and bondage/ captivity, would return to devastated Judah after their exile and that the birth of a child (Whose name we don't know) to an unnamed maiden (again, an unknown) in Ahaz' family /royal court would be born in Judah as *a very real sign that God is present and keeps promises*. The Child's birth, in a time of political/ military crisis, siege, instability - like that in Syria and Lebanon and the whole Middle East today, - his very name, and destiny, would be a SIGN that the promise to "fear not" could be trusted and that the warring enemy kings/ the current political crisis would be thwarted.

This message. . ."Do not be afraid" should not surprise us. In the biblical story, God is always in the business of "casting out fear." The words, "fear not" or their equivalent occur 48 times in the Bible. Matthew's story asks us to listen to the strange beginnings of the Jesus story and believe the good news we hear in the light of the whole story of salvation in Israel's history, for God is always that "promising God" whose word we can trust. In that history and ours, God is always present and at work –often in surprising ways—to impact the world of countless individuals. "Fear not", are the first words angels learn in Angel School.

Therefore, Joseph and Mary (in Luke's story) can trust the angel who says, "Do not be afraid." Even Jesus' promised name brings good news. The child is also known as "Emmanuel" ("God is with us"). This is very good news, indeed! These two names together—"Emmanuel" and "Jesus" express the meaning of the story. God is present to save and rescue. God does not stay at a distance but comes close and intervenes. God is active and present in the crisis of faith to save and rescue a people from a helpless plight, demanding that we notice that God can do the "inconceivable" (to play with a word-theme-image in the story), impossible things.

Jesus, like Joshua of old, will bring God's people into the Promised Land. In Jesus, God is present to the laments and longings of God's people. Jesus will save—but not from geographical exile but rather from a deeper slavery, the old slavery to sin. Slaves to sins we are. This ancient captivity unfolds as a trajectory of that first sinfulness from the Garden of Eden until today. Generations of readers of Matthew's Gospel would have heard the good news, the very best news . . . Jesus is no ordinary Child, but God's long-awaited Savior and divine Son. He is our King and Lord. This is God coming and acting, God intervening. In Jesus, our God came to save. In Jesus God is present to our fears and sins to bring release. In Jesus, the Good Shepherd -- so longed for, prayed for, and sung about in Psalm 80 -- comes to restore. For you, for me, for us all. At issue is our learning, again and again, to trust God's word to us, "Fear Not. . ." which transcends all fears.

Faithfully yours,

The Rev. Dr. Brad Brauer, Interim Pastor

Church Council

C12.04. The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. - St. Luke Constitution

Mark Your Calendars!

**The Annual Meeting of the Congregation is on
Sunday, January 26**

After the 10:30 AM service, in the Sanctuary

The next Council meeting is on Thursday, January 9

For more information, contact Council at council@StLukeABQ.org

St. Luke Learners & **SERVERS**

Tuesday, January 21

1:30 PM, in the Fellowship Hall

Featuring: New Mexico Dream Center

The February Bucket of Change recipient is the New Mexico Dream Center. Join us to find out more about this organization. Birga Alden, the Community Outreach Coordinator from the New Mexico Dream Center will speak on human trafficking and the mission of the center.

We would love for you to join us. Bring a friend, a neighbor.

Contact: Judy Moore at EldersAlive@StLukeABQ.org.



St. Luke Music Ministries

Danielle Cordova, Coordinator

John Garlisch

Organ Recital

Sunday, January 12
3 PM at St. Luke Church

Start your new year with our Sunday afternoon concert featuring John Garlisch playing music by Krebs, J. S. Bach, Dupre, Buxtehude, Frahm, Heron, and Pepping.

The concert begins at 3pm with refreshments following. The concert is free with donations accepted.



Program

Fantasia in F, Krebs WV 419—J.L. Krebs (1713-1780)

In dulci Jubilo—Marcel Dupré (1886-1971)

In dulci Jubilo, BuxWV 197—Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Chaconne in E minor, BuxWV 160—Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Epiphany Abstract—Frederick Frahm (b. 1964)

Pastorale in G—Adam Heron (b. 1998)

Vom Himmel Hoch, 3 settings—Ernst Pepping (1901-1981)

Vom Himmel Hoch, BWV 700—J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

John Garlisch

John Garlisch grew up on a farm in Central Illinois. He started playing piano in Kindergarten and organ for church at age 13. In college, he studied horticulture and agriculture business, as well as played organ full time for a Lutheran church. During his college internship in Europe, he visited and played a few historical instruments. He came to Albuquerque in 2010 to work for NMSU Cooperative Extension in local agriculture and 4H. He currently serves congregations as an itinerant organist, and he enjoys listening to organ and choral music both live and recorded. (From [The American Guild of Organists, ABQ, July/Aug 2020](#))

Youth 6th Grade and Up

grade 6
and up

LOVE GOD LOVE NEIGHBOR
ABQ YOUTH COLLABORATIVE



Second Sundays Sept–April,
12:30–2:30PM

Pizza provided starting 12:00 in Fellowship Hall

- January 12th High Desert Therapy Dogs (at St. Luke 9100 Menaul Blvd. NE)

We will be making dog biscuits, have the opportunity to meet the therapy dogs and learn about the High Desert Therapy Dog organization.



Please RSVP to Allie Brandt by Jan. 8th, stluke.abrandt@gmail.com



Volunteer Substitutes Needed Kids SPARK Sunday School

Enjoy working with children and youth?
Do you want to help activate faith in our young families?

Consider volunteering as a substitute at Kids SPARK! as needed,
Sundays, 9:15-10:15AM
In the Youth Room

Follow the link to sign up or contact Allie Brandt,
stluke.abrandt@gmail.com,
for more information.

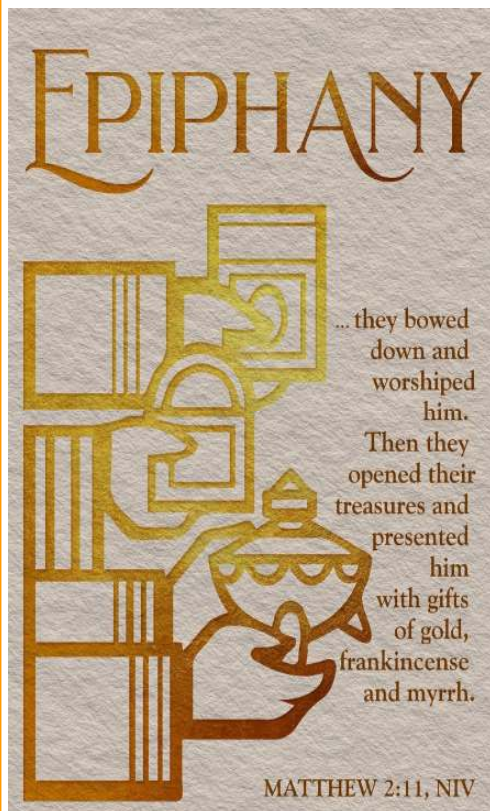
<https://stlukeabq.breezechms.com/form/38fb80>



BABY FROLIC BIBLE CLUB

Our first session is planned for
Sunday, January 26th, 9:15 AM
(during the education hour), in the nursery

If this date/time works well, we will continue meeting the 4th Sunday of each month at this time. At this time, it will be lay-person-led using the Baby Frolic Nursery resources.



Vielen Dank. . . .

In this season of gift-giving and joy, I offer my profound thanks and wish you all the very best in 2025 and a happy Christmastide as we make our way to Epiphany, January 6, the revealing of the Best Gift of All, Jesus our Lord!

Thank you for including me in your gift-giving as a new, temporary staff member. It is a real joy to be with you and work with such outstanding staff members and gifted congregation leaders and volunteers.

Thank you for your Christmas gifts, joy-filled conversations, cards, ornaments, beautiful music, the pageantry, the School programs and kids' smiles, wonderful goodies / shared meals, and well-wishes.

Bless you!

The Rev. Dr. Bradley James Brauer,
 Interim Pastor +

Children's Sunday School

Sundays, 9:15-10:15 AM
(between worship services)



We will be meeting in the church for practice of the Ensemble at 9:15. We will then break and go to our classrooms.



GODLY PLAY for ages 2.5 through pre-K age

(with a parent, grandparent or caregiver) Godly Play is a creative, imaginative approach to Bible Story-telling.

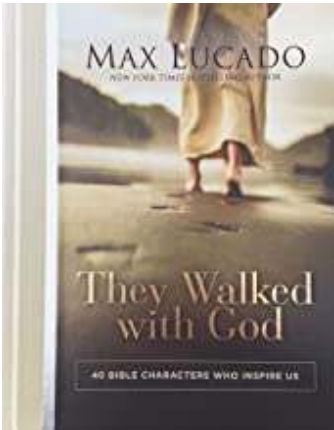


KIDS SPARK for Kindergarten through 5th grade

With games, crafts, and conversation, we gather "family style" helping each other to pray, read the Bible, and explore ways to activate our faith in everyday life throughout the week. We discover and re-discover God speaking to us afresh!



If you have any questions please contact Allie at stluke.abrandt@gmail.com



Lamplighters Book Study Group

Thursday, January 2

2:00 - 3:30 PM, in the Lounge/Library

We will be studying the last 2 chapters that we haven't studied in the book "They Walked With God". We will discuss "The Canaanite Woman" and "The Leper Jesus Healed". Pam Mares will be leading the discussion.

We would love for anyone interested to come and join us!

Any questions contact Diane Quarles at 505-264-5444.



Women's "gather" Bible Study, Brunch, & Mini-Retreat

Saturday, January 11

9:15 - 11:45 AM

At St. Luke Lutheran Church, in Fellowship Hall

Study: Faithfulness by Denise Rector

January 11 is Session One: Ruth and Naomi

Ruth chooses to remain part of Naomi's family, even after Naomi has lost everything – including her husband and sons. This intergenerational story of faithfulness during emptiness and sorrow helps us learn how to rely on God in bleak times.



For more information, contact Bev Berardinelli at womensbiblestudy@stlukeabq.org.

For more information on the Gather magazine, go online to www.gathermagazine.org.

Church Women United (CWU) Retreat

Saturday, January 26, 2025

St. Paul Lutheran Church 1100 Indian School Rd NE Albuquerque, NM 87102

9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Theme: "God's Daughters Living Powerful Lives"

All Women are Welcome - Plan to attend - Bring a friend!

For more information, see Betty Begeal

Upcoming CWU Gatherings for your 2025 calendar

Host churches will be identified later

- ♦ World Day of Prayer - March 7; May Friendship Day - May 2
- ♦ Human Rights Celebration - September 5; World Community Day - November 7



Adult Forum

Sundays, 9:30 AM

(after the 8:15 service)

In the Zuni Room,
in Admin. building

New study starts January 12

+++++

Adult Faith Forum in January and February 2025

Join us in January, beginning on Sunday, January 12, at 9:30 A.M., around the Bible Study table at the Adult Forum as Pastor Brad leads us in a 4 – 6 week study of the

“Prayers of Jesus, the Lord’s Prayer, and the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (in the Sunday/Liturgy of Holy Communion)”

For four to six weeks, we will read and study together the patterns and content of Jewish Prayers in both Testaments, the Synagogue’s prayers with which Jesus was -no doubt- familiar, and Jesus’ prayers (reconstructed from the gospels in parallel).

We will make our way through the ‘**Our Father,**’ the “**Lord’s Prayer**” with its radical content, and end with a focus on liturgical prayer today and Intercessory Prayers (forms and content).

These are the basic building blocks of Hebrew prayer:

- (1) God is named and worshipped (adoration often with confession);
- (2) God is thanked, and God’s mercies are remembered and recounted (anamnesis); and
- (3) God is ‘beseeched’ or asked for something (supplication).

The endings of such a Forum Class venture will be flexible and fluid in answer to participants’ discoveries, questions, and needs. *Join us, please.*

Thank You for Your Gifts

From the Albuquerque Community Foundation

On behalf of Albuquerque Community Foundation Board of Trustees & Staff, we thank you for your recent gift. Your gift has been recorded in support of: The Emergency Action Fund for Roswell Floods in the amount of \$1,091.97.

Sincerely,
R. Randy Royster, President & CEO
Denise Nava Wyrick, Marketing & Development Director

From Wings for Life International

On behalf of Wings for Life International, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous donation of \$900.00. Your support plays an essential role in helping us continue our mission of empowering individuals and transforming lives through our programs and initiatives ...

Warm regards,
Derek Trujillo, Director of Operations

From Dignity Mission

Dear Members of St. Luke Lutheran Church, We wish to express our deepest gratitude to you for your most generous gift to the Dignity Mission. We as fellow proponents of Jesus' call to feed, shelter, and protect those among us who are in need are humbled by your generosity in assisting us in heeding that call. We ensure your gift will be used to procure what is needed to comfort our brothers and sisters at the border who are seeking safety and shelter for themselves and their families. ...

Beyond grateful,
Cheryl & Jack Ferrell
Founders of Dignity Mission

From Navajo Lutheran Mission

Thank you for the blessing of your tax deductible donation of \$2,000. ... Your gift allows life-giving services to be possible for thousands of deserving Navajo families. ...

Blessings to you with love,
Patterson Yazzle, Executive Director

Epiphany

January 4 - 5,
2025 services
Pastor Brad
teaches on the gifts of the Wise
Men



2025 Bucket of Change Schedule

January	Roadrunner Food Bank New Mexico	www.rrfb.org	As a food distribution hub, Roadrunner Food Bank NM provides food to hundreds of affiliated member partners around the state including food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and regional food banks
February	New Mexico Dream Center	www.nmdreamcenter.org	New Mexico Dream Center provides compassionate services to the underserved & marginalized in Albuquerque; includes youth experiencing homelessness, survivors of sex trafficking, trafficked minor children and trafficked immigrants.
March	Saranam	https://saranamabq.org	Transforming families and ending generational homelessness, one success story at a time. We offer housing, food, education, and training, a place of refuge, a supportive community, help healing, & hope for a brighter future for themselves and generations to come.
April	Greater Albuquerque Habitat for Humanity	https://habitatbq.org/	We build community by providing low-income families the opportunity to purchase a home so they can find stability and build a safe and secure foundation for their family's future.
May	Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless	https://www.abqhch.org/	Mission: Fueled by compassion and driven by equity, we lead boldly, create exceptional health care experiences, and raise voices to end homelessness.
June	Meals on Wheels Albuquerque	https://mow-nm.org/	MOWNM is the only home delivered meal program in ABQ preparing special diets for anyone. We prepare these special diets to meet the nutritional needs of our clients with medical issues such as diabetes, renal failure, heart issues, chewing and swallowing problems and more. We have no service restrictions based on age or disability and can provide meals for as long as a client needs us.
July	Family Promise of Albuquerque	www.familypromisealbuquerque.org	FPA assists families who are at risk for homelessness, currently experiencing homelessness or recently exiting homelessness. It's a community of over 700 volunteers from 21 faith communities that wraps its arms around the families it serves to provide them with a network of support.
August	Cuidando Los Niños	https://clnabq.org/	Mission: to break the cycle of homelessness for children and families by providing high-quality early childhood education, case management, supportive housing, & parent education.
September	Lutheran Disaster Response	Go online to https://www.elca.org/ Choose "Our Work," then "Relief and Development," then, "Lutheran Disaster Response"	LDR shares God's hope, healing and renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need
October	Hopeworks New Mexico	https://hopeworksnm.org/	Hopeworks provides access to day shelter, housing, & mental/behavioral health services. It addresses the complex challenges and trauma that many of us face, offering healing, safety, and support through love and community.
November	<i>TBA - for a Christmas gift recipient</i>		
December	ELCA World Hunger	Online at https://www.elca.org/ Choose "Our Work," then "Relief and Development," then, "ELCA World Hunger"	Working with & through our congregations , in the 50 US states, Puerto Rico & U.S. Virgin Islands, Lutheran churches overseas & other partners, EWH reach communities in need. Your gifts make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

Sun

Mon

Tue



JANUARY

2025



<p>5 8:15am Worship Service Coffee Fellowship after each service 9:15am Adult Forum, in Zuni room 10:30am Worship Service; Salt & Spark choir singing</p>	<p>6 EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD 8:30am Preschool Teachers' In-Service, in Zuni room 3pm Judy Moore's class, in Zuni room</p>	<p>7 Preschool classes resume 6:30pm Worship, Music, & the Arts Committee meeting on Zoom</p>
<p>12 BAPTISM OF OUR LORD 8:15am Worship Service Coffee Fellowship after each service 9:15am Adult Forum, in Zuni room 9:15-9:30am Salt & Spark choir, in Sanctuary 9:30am Confirmation Class, in Fellowship HI 9:35am Godly Play, in Godly Play room 9:35am Kids Spark, in Youth room 10:30am Worship Service 12:30-2:30pm Love God, Love Neighbor at St. Luke 3pm John Garlisch Recital at St Luke 3pm Judy Moore's class, in Zuni room</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 9:15am Preschool Music Classes in Taos room</p>
<p>19 8:15am Worship Service Coffee Fellowship after each service 9:15am Adult Forum, in Zuni room 9:15-9:30am Salt & Spark choir, in Sanctuary 9:30am Confirmation Class, in Fellowship HI 9:35am Godly Play, in Godly Play room 9:35am Kids Spark, in Youth room 10:30am Worship Service 3pm Judy Moore's class, in Zuni room</p>	<p>20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Church office and Preschool closed 3pm Judy Moore's Math Class, in Zuni room</p>	<p>21 9:15am Preschool Music Classes in Taos room 1:30pm Learners & Servers event: Featuring: NM Dream Center on Human Trafficking 5pm Men's Bible Study in Lounge/Library 7pm Preschool Comm. meeting on Zoom</p>
<p>26 Blessing of Eucharistic Visitor Communion kids during services 8:15am Worship Service Coffee Fellowship after each service 9:15am Adult Forum, in Zuni room 9:15-9:30am Salt & Spark choir, in Sanctuary 9:30am Confirmation Class, in Fellowship HI 9:35am Godly Play, in Godly Play room 9:35am Kids Spark, in Youth room 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Annual Congregational Meeting, in Sanctuary 3pm Judy Moore's class, in Zuni room</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 9:15am Preschool Music Classes in Taos room 7pm Children, Youth & Family Committee meeting on Zoom</p>

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 <i>HAPPY NEW YEAR!</i></p> <p>Church office closed</p>	<p>2</p> <p>2pm Lamplighters Book Study, in Lounge</p> <p><i>Noon: Angie out of the office</i></p>	<p>3</p> <p><i>Angie out of the office</i></p>	<p>4</p> <p>5pm Worship service Stewardship Temple Talk 5pm Live –Stream worship service at StLukeABQ.org</p>
<p>8</p> <p>10am Love God. Love Neighbor Planning meeting, in Zuni room 12:30pm Staff Meeting, Conf rm 2:00pm Bells of St. Luke Practice in Sanctuary 7:00-8:30pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>9</p> <p>6pm Church Council meeting</p>	<p>10 DEADLINE: submission of 2024 Annual committee/ministry reports to the church office</p> <p>9:15-11:45am Preschool Worship: THE BOY JESUS IN THE TEMPLE 12pm Taking down of Christmas decorations 7pm Friday Film Forum at Aakers' home</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9am Program Strategic Planning Com. Meeting, Lounge/Library 9:15-11:45am Women's gather Bible study, Brunch, Mini-retreat, Fellowship Hall 1pm Survivors of Suicide in Zuni room 2pm Infrastructure Strategic Planning Comm. meeting on Zoom 5pm Worship Service 5pm Live –Stream worship</p>
<p>15 DEADLINE: articles & items for February Horizon newsletter & calendar 9:15am Preschool Music Classes in Taos room 2:00pm Bells of St. Luke Practice in Sanctuary 7:00-8:30pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>16 9:15-11:45am Preschool Worship: THE BOY JESUS IN THE TEMPLE</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:30am St. Luke Singers Location: TBA</p>	<p>18</p> <p>5pm Worship service 5pm Live –Stream worship service at StLukeABQ.org</p>
<p>22</p> <p>9:15am Preschool Music Classes in Taos room 2:00pm Bells of St. Luke Practice in Sanctuary 7:00-8:30pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 9:15-11:45am Preschool Worship: THE GOOD SAMARITAN</p>	<p>25 9-11am Church Women United Retreat, at St Paul Lutheran 1pm Survivors of Suicide 5pm Worship service 5pm Live –Stream worship at StLukeABQ.org</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:15am Preschool Music Classes in Taos room 2:00pm Bells of St. Luke Practice in Sanctuary 7:00-8:30pm Sanctuary Choir rehearsal</p>	<p>30 9:15-11:45am Preschool Worship: THE GOOD SAMARITAN</p>	<p>31</p>	

*You crown the year with your goodness;
your carts overflow with plenty. - Psalm 65:11*

January 2025



St. Luke Preschool



Growing with God Since 1956

(505) 292-8812 | STLUKESC@thuntek.net | stlukepreschool.org



Please invite your family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, or anyone you know who has young children, to our

Open House from 3:00-5:00 pm on Sunday, February 2, 2025.

Time for families to meet and talk with our knowledgeable and dedicated teachers, ask questions, spend time in the classrooms, and pick up pre-registration materials for the 2025--2026 school year.

ENROLLMENT DATES:

- ◆ Monday, February 3: For in-house families and St. Luke congregation members
- Tuesday, February 18:** Open enrollment for the public

NAEYC (National Association for the Education of Young Children) accreditation represents the mark of quality in early childhood education.



NAEYC Accreditation began in 1985 with the goal of providing an accrediting system that would raise the quality of early childhood programs. Today, over 7,000 programs are NAEYC Accredited. NAEYC accredited programs invest in early childhood education because they believe in the benefits to children and families.

✧ Early childhood experiences, from birth to age 8, have an enormous impact on children's lifelong learning and positively contribute to their health and development.


- ✧ Early childhood education programs with the mark of quality benefit children with greater readiness for and success in school.

NAEYC accreditation represents the mark of quality in early childhood education.

Did you know St. Luke Preschool has been NAEYC accredited since 1995?!

thank you!

Prospective and current preschool families often comment about the beauty of the foliage in the courtyard and around the property. We are grateful for all who give of their time to tend to the plants and the landscaping, including Mike Sanchez, Sandy & Charles Clark, Andreas Hochstein, Norman Stahulak, Sally Trigg, and Victor Barba, to mention a few!



MEN'S MINISTRY

Men's Bible Study Group

Tuesday, January 21

5:00 PM in the Lounge/Library

Focus text: Luke 7:11-17 A great prophet has risen among us! God has looked favorably on his people! - v 16 *"What was Jesus Doing?" Jesus embodies God's authority and enacts God's compassion*
[session 4: Luke: Books of Faith series, by David L. Tiede]

For more information and for a copy of the study, please contact Chris Brandt at Chris.L.Brandt@gmail.com.



FRIDAY FILM FORUM

January 10, 7 PM

At Jerry & Judy Aaker's home

The movies to discuss are:

- ◆ "Flow"
- ◆ "A Complete Unknown" and
- ◆ "The Fire Inside"

RSVP: Jerry or Judy at jaaker2@yahoo.com



BUCKET OF CHANGE

"Noisy Offering"

Our St. Luke "Bucket of Change" offerings for **January 2025** will go to:

Roadrunner Food Bank of New Mexico



Roadrunner® Food Bank of New Mexico, a Feeding America member, is the largest non-profit dedicated to solving food insecurity in New Mexico.

As a food distribution hub, we provide food to hundreds of affiliated member partners around the state including food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and regional food banks.

MAP THE MEAL GAP shows

1 in 5 children and 1 in 7 New Mexicans are at risk of hunger.

- Source: www.rafb.org



You may place your offerings for the **BUCKET OF CHANGE** in the bucket at church (*our "noisy offering"*), send gifts directly to St. Luke via mail or contribute via our online giving resources on our church website <http://stlukeabq.org/>.

St. Luke Prays *This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. - 1 John 5:14*

For the peace from above and for our salvation

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray: † Our country; Synod Bishop The Rev. Dr. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni; churches in our Synod, especially those searching for a pastor; ELCA missionary in Guayana Carolyn Schneider, Ph.D.; outreach Lutheran Family Services; ministry to students Luther House UNM-CNM; Navajo Lutheran Mission which serves Navajo community in Rock Point, AZ; ELC in Jordan and Holy Land; our brothers & sisters in Middle East; the persecuted church: thanksgiving for the Word of God reaching a country in East Asia and protection for the missionaries

For this holy house, St Luke church, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray:

† Interim Pastor Brad Brauer; for all servants (church committee/ministry leaders); St. Luke Preschool students & staff; St. Luke Preschool Village participants; church office staff; and for all who come to worship

For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray.

For our public servants, for the government and those who protect us that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray

† For current and newly elected & appointed government officials & for our nation's healing and civic health, especially during this transition time; US military personnel serving in the Middle East and in the Pacific; rescue workers in Roswell after the flood in October; those who are helping rebuild the flooded U.S. eastern states

For those who work to bring peace, justice, health and protection in this and every place, let us pray:

† Law enforcements in greater Albuquerque and neighboring cities; ELCA World Hunger partnering with congregations in the U.S.A. 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, Lutheran churches overseas and other partners to reach communities in need

For our deliverance from all afflictions, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray:

† For peace in our families and our homes
† Our beloved church family members: DW & Deb Stephenson, Dave Begeal, newly baptized Patrick Needham, Jonny Kay, Else Couzin, Steve, Karin Duda, Cheryl, Sherri Domres, Ellen Seylar, Don Lange, Nancy Granert, Dorela Cole, Mike & Brenda Sanchez,

Crystal Vaughan & Shane Kenney-Vaughan, Polly Brodbeck, Melda Burns, Leah Coughenour, Dottie Donohoe, Kay Dunbar, Lucille Few, Diane Gruner, Marie Lenard, Marv Plugge, Loretta Roe, Lois Rowland, Ardys Theophilus, Don Vlasaty, Liz Wills

† Friends & family: Vanessa (daughter of Marie Lenard), Menell Large & children, Son of Brenda G, Sandra, Evie (young teen), Nancy, Terry, Todd, and Diane, Russ Glauner, Cheryl, Don & Annette, Anna Cordova, baby Gabriel Shore, John, Jeanne Willey, Lyn & Leigh Bitters, Betty G, Omar, baby Whitney, Mary & Vicky, Aleta, Chris, Charlotte, Bernadette, Victoria, Melanie Amend, Alan, Valerie, Jean Klinke, Garrett & Thomas, John, Jay, Racquel, Peggy & Marie, Marjorie, Ben Grill, Desiree, Al & Linda Roesler, Bonnie & Julian, Roy, Brock, Kristine, Derek, Brandon, Wesley (2 yrs), Rogene, Chris, Enrique

† Near End of Life: Joan Sandy, Loretta
† The Middle East, that all may be reconciled to God; the persecuted church in Iran, that Spirit-led conversations will bring more Iranians to know hope & peace in Christ.

For the families of the faithful who have gone before us and are at rest, let us give thanks:

† Diane Quarles' daughter & her family on death of father-in-law, Judith Raver & family on death of her husband; Alex & Kate Roesler and Roesler family on death of Alex's mother Linda Roesler on Dec. 31; Emily Smith & family on death of her grandfather Morris (Maury) Lindholm of Fergus Falls, MN (death on Dec. 22; Memorial Gathering on Jan. 3.); Family of Chad Slenes on death of Dee Elaine Slenes on Dec. 24; Carr Family on death of Brad's mother; Keith Jordan on death of mother on Dec. 7-8 weekends.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.

Please submit your prayer requests to PrayerChain@StLukeABQ.org or contact the church office.

Names will remain on the prayer list for one month.



January Celebrations

Birthdays

- 1 Deanna Vendel
- 2 Nancy Granert
- 5 Joshua Tise
- 6 Pauline "Polly" Brodbeck
- 6 Dorthe Carr
- 8 Camille Lynn
- 9 Taylor Hollowwa
- 10 Frank Abram Cronican
- 13 Betty Bailey
- 13 Bev Berardinelli
- 14 Sonia Garley
- 17 Rebecca Earnest
- 19 Megan Kalm
- 22 Jim Otto
- 24 Roger Rhoades
- 25 Esmae Brandt
- 29 Carol Abramovich



Wedding Anniversary

January 23

Jerry & Judy Aaker

*For by grace you have been saved
through faith.
And this is not your own doing;
it is the gift of God,
not a result of works, so that no one may
boast.
For we are his workmanship,
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
which God prepared beforehand,
that we should walk in them.
- Ephesians 2:8-10*



Suggested Bible Reading Plan

From BibleProject.com

Week 1	GENESIS	PSALM	Week 3	GENESIS	PSALM
Day 1	1-3	1	Day 1	46-47	15
Day 2	4-7	2	Day 2	48-50	16
Day 3	9-11	3		EXODUS	
Day 4	12-15	4	Day 3	1-3	17
Day 5	16-18	5	Day 4	4-6	18
Day 6	19-21	6	Day 5	7-9	19
Day 7	22-24	7	Day 6	10-12	20
			Day 7	13-15	21
Week 2	GENESIS	PSALM	Week 4	EXODUS	PSALM
Day 1	25-28	8	Day 1	16-18	22
Day 2	29-31	9	Day 2	19-21	23
Day 3	32-34	10	Day 3	22-24	24
Day 4	35-37	11	Day 4	25-27	25
Day 5	38-40	12	Day 5	28-29	26
Day 6	41-42	13	Day 6	30-31	27
Day 7	43-45	14	Day 7	32-34	28



The Wellness Ministry

Mission: To CARE by equipping, educating and advocating for wellness of mind, body and spirit in our church and neighborhood.

MEMBERS Betty Ann Arner (Chair), Sandy Williams Clark, Gayle Carleton, and Twila Randolph,

NEXT WELLNESS MINISTRY MEETING Tuesday, February 4, 4 PM in the Zuni room. Contact Betty Ann Arner at bettyannarner@gmail.com.



Coffee Fellowship

Sunday Fellowship Goodies and Generosity

By Sally Trigg, Coordinator

Every Sunday we meet to worship and sing and learn and pray. And, after each service, we get to know each other better as we munch on delicious goodies.

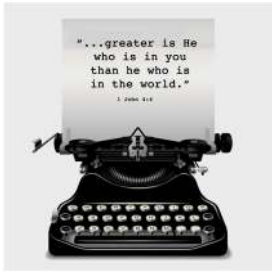
Dunkin Donuts is the source for the ever-popular donut holes. But you may not know that each week a different congregation member provides the delicious fruit and veggie trays.

A big THANK YOU to the generous congregation members who have provided our delightful 2024 Sunday munchies:

Judy and Gerald Aaker
Carol and George Allen
Les and D'Ann Anderson
Betty Ann Arner
Betty and Dave Begeal
Joann Brawley
Clare Castiglia
Else Couzin
Nancy Espy
Diane and David Follstaedt
Tom and Ruth Glauner
Brenda Gronewold
Linda Hathaway
Laura and Shane Jorgensen

Nancy and Denny Krenz
Marina de vos Mauney
Joyce Mills
Ken and Mary Sorenson
Deborah and DW Stephenson
Sally Trigg
Deanna Vendel
Sandy Williams and Charles Clark
Crystal Vaughn

If you would like to support our Sunday fellowship by occasionally providing fruit and veggies, please contact Sally Trigg at sallydtrigg@gmail.com or 575 613 3722.



ST. LUKE CHURCH OFFICE

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands! – Psalm 90:17

Contact church staff at: 505.299.2621 or at stluke@thuntek.net

Altar Flowers, given by

Jan. 25-26: Mary Voelz, in memory of George Voelz

Jan. 11-12; and 18-19: *one arrangement each weekend available for offering*

Sanctuary Candle for January

Available for offering

To Offer Altar Flowers and the Monthly Sanctuary Candle

Please sign up on the Flower Chart posted on the kiosk in the Church lobby. Donation: \$25 for Sanctuary candle for the month; \$35 per altar flower arrangement.

You may donate online at stlukeABQ.org or send your donation with your offering.

Worship Assistants

The sign up sheets are available on the kiosk, in the Church lobby.

Staff Out of the Office

Angie out of the office 12 Noon, Dec. 24, 26, 30 & 31, Jan. 2; and all day Dec. 27 & Jan. 3

Pastor Brad out of the office Dec. 28 & 29

Publication Deadlines

- ✧ **BY NOON FRI., JAN. 10** - Council, Committee & Ministry Leaders, please submit your group's **2024 Annual Report** to be included in the 2024 Annual Report Booklet
- ✧ **WEDNESDAY, JAN. 15** - Submission of items and articles for the February Horizon newsletter and calendar
- ✧ **BY NOON ON WEDNESDAYS** -
 - ◆ Items for the upcoming weekend St Luke GPS
 - ◆ Documents you need copied for the upcoming weekend

The banner features a scenic background of a mountain range and a field. At the top center is the Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp logo, which includes a stylized mountain and the text 'Rainbow Trail LUTHERAN CAMP'. Below the logo, the word 'CAMP' is written in large, colorful letters, with each letter containing a different photo of campers. To the right of 'CAMP', the word 'FIT' is written in large, outlined letters. At the bottom left, there is a quote: 'Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me." Matthew 16:24'. Below the quote is the website 'rainbowtrail.org'. At the bottom right, there is a registration deadline: '2025 Summer Registration Begins November 1'.

**Rainbow Trail
Lutheran Camp
2025 Summer
Camps —
Registration is
now open.
Go online at
rainbowtrail.org**

Global Mission Ministry



Please read "The Dignity Mission" by Jerry & Judy Aaker on next page.

UPDATES FROM THE BORDER
PRESENTED BY THE DIGNITY MISSION and
ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH
4800 All Saints Road, Albuquerque

JANUARY 11th, 2025
1:00 PM

RSVP 505-898-3932



KEY NOTE SPEAKERS

- **Dr. Eva Moya**, Professor of Social Work at University of Texas/El Paso at the Border Biomedical Research Center
- **Dr. Georgina Sanchez-Garcia**, Professor at UTEP, Research Assistant at the University of Texas/El Paso
- **Fr. Peter Precourt, AA, D Min**, Pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish, in El Paso, Texas.

FREE WILL OFFERING TO SUPPORT THE DIGNITY MISSION

Checks should be payable to:
All Saints Lutheran Church
Memo: Dignity Mission

TO WATCH ON ZOOM GO TO
<https://www.allsaintsabq.org/online-activities/>

Global Mission Ministry



The Dignity Mission

By Jerry and Judy Aaker

St Luke's support to the Dignity Mission in 2024 went toward affirming the dignity of those seeking asylum in the United States by channeling donations of dignity kits, food, clothing and many other items to shelters in El Paso and across the border in Ciudad Juarez. Founders, Jack and Cheryl Ferrel, reported on their most recent trip to the border that they witness the joy and hope of many children and parents as they delivered Christmas gifts and many other needed items to migrant shelters. Jack reported after that trip.

“Sadly, that happiness was offset by the horror stories some shared about their journeys—young children describing the drowning of a little girl trying to rescue a dog from a river on their trek through the Darien Gap and the subsequent suicide of the grief-stricken father of the little girl; the blank stare of a pregnant teenage girl who had been raped on her journey north. It seems no one arrives at the shelters unscathed.”

Several shelters on both sides of the border are closing (mostly because of lack of funding) but others will continue to serve the newly arrived in an uncertain future for migrants in this country. The Dignity Mission is determined to continue its work.

To learn more and hear directly from people on the front lines of service on the border, check out this important upcoming event taking place at All Saints Lutheran Church on January 11 (*see previous page for the flyer*).



Jerry & Judy Aaker helping delivery Dignity in El Paso, TX



Assembling Dignity Kits at St. Luke; event sponsored by St. Luke Learners & Servers



Writing cards for each Dignity Kit assembled



Global Mission Ministry



The Rev. Carolyn Schneider, Ph.D.
ELCA Missionary serving in Guyana

Dear friends and partners in ministry,

December 2024

May the glow of Jesus' birth keep your heart warm throughout these twelve days of Christmas!

Some of you have asked me what the Christmas season is like in Guyana. In many ways, it is very similar to the Christmas season in the U.S. There are lots of lights and decorations in the shops and streets as well as in the churches, lots of gift-giving, lots of family gatherings, lots of Christmas carols, and lots of special worship services. But when I look more closely, I can see at least one unique feature of a Guyanese Christmas.

Guyanese culture embraces festivity, and since it is always warm here, those festivities happen outside on the streets. During the Advent season leading up to Christmas in the little town of New Amsterdam, where I live, three free public concerts were held. These involved closing off the main street,



and setting up a canopy and hundreds of folding chairs for the audience, mostly children. One concert was sponsored by a bank, one by a network of Pentecostal churches, and one by the ruling political party. There were loud MCs, singers, people reciting poetry, children's dance troupes, steel bands, drum corps, and, yes, even some preaching. My favorite act was these two girls dancing jubilantly to "Joy to the World".

The very public nature of these events seems to me to go hand-in-hand with the fact that a beloved Christmas carol here is "Go, Tell it on the Mountain." The refrain is, "Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere. Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born."

The last verse of the song, however, points to a reality of Christmas that is often hidden by all the public festivity, not only in Guyana, but elsewhere, too: "Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born; and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn." Tucked away off the main street, on the

Continued next page

Global Mission Ministry



Update from Missionary Pastor Carolyn Schneider ... continued from previous page



edge of town across from the tax office, as if Joseph had come to be registered, I found this rustic nativity scene, one of only two public nativity scenes that I have seen here. It probably reflects better than all the festivities the reality of the situation when Jesus was born.

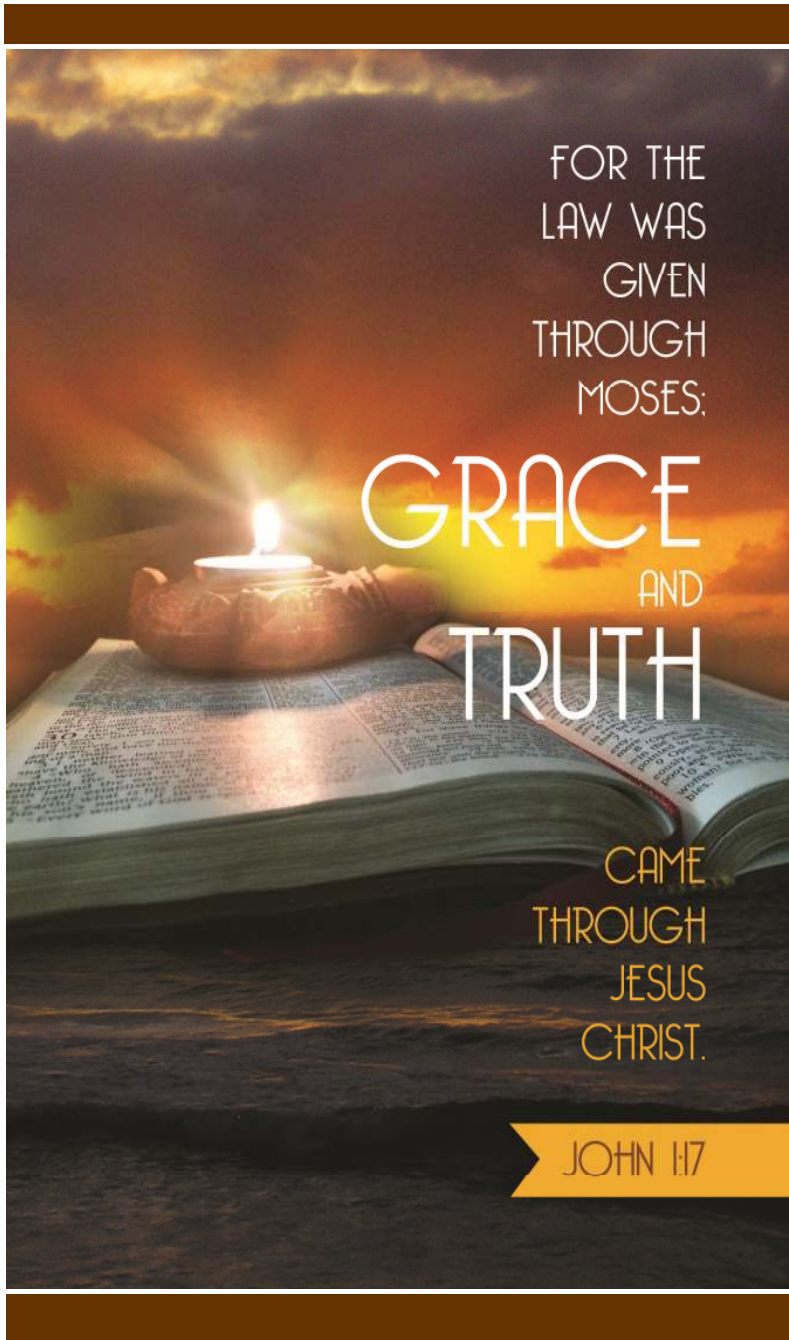
On Christmas day, I worshiped and preached at St. Bartholomew Lutheran Church in the small town of Fyriish. Like all the Lutheran churches here, it is built to let in lots of fresh air, and since the

windows have no screens or glass, small birds fly in and out. One feathered couple was attracted by all the extra greenery in the church, and they built their nest in one of the Christmas wreaths. For me, it is a hopeful little nativity scene, too, in its own way. It reminds me of my favorite psalm, Psalm 84, especially verses 3-4, "Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my king and my God. Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise." Earth receives her king, and heaven and nature sing indeed.

Carolyn

Rev. Dr. Carolyn Schneider
Lutheran Identity Professor and Pastoral Ministry Advisor
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, in partnership with
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana

Email: Carolyn.schneider@elca.org



ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH



*A congregation of the
ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod*
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, *Presiding Bishop*
The Rev. Dr. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni,
Synod Bishop
The Rev. Dr. Brad Brauer, *Interim Pastor*
Phone: (402) 416-0483
Email: bbrauer_4316desk@hotmail.com
Michelle Barba, *Business Manager*
Allie Brandt, *Coordinator of Multi-Generational Ministries*
Danielle Cordova, *Coordinator of Music Ministries*
Pamela Franco, *Media Ministry Assistant*
Nancy Granert, *Organist*
Precious Goodhart, *Nursery Care on Saturday*
Taylor Hollowwa, *Nursery Care on Sunday*
Angelica Miller, *Office Manager, Ministry Assistant, Horizon newsletter Editor*
Victor Barba & Jonathan Barba *Interim Custodians*

Church Council

(Email: Council@StLukeABQ.org)
DeAnn Eaton Azar: *Finance Secretary*
Cindy Callisto: *Council Secretary*
Greg Haschke: *Council Vice-President; Stewardship; Sanctuary Choir*
Hazel Mella: *Adult Forum*
Judy Moore: *Treasurer; Finance; Budget; Personnel; Stewardship; Godly Play; St. Learners & Servers*
Alison Schuler: *Preschool Committee*
Marshall Shore: *Council President; Property Committee*
The Rev. Dr. Brad Brauer, *Interim Pastor*

St. Luke Preschool

Phone: (505) 292-8812
E-mail: stlukes@thuntek.net
Website: www.stlukepreshool.org

Lori Erven, *Director*
Jane Clinger,
Office Administrator

Growing with God



St.LukePreschool

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Publication Deadlines: *Please send articles/items to the church office, c/o Angie Miller at stluke@thuntek.net.*

- ♦ Deadline to submit articles for the next month **Horizon newsletter:** 15th day of the current month
- ♦ Items for the weekly **St. Luke GPS:** - noon on Wednesday before upcoming weekend service
- ♦ Deadlines subject to change during the holidays. Go to page 19 for holiday deadlines.