

St. Luke's Episcopal Church Weekly Newsletter  
December 22, 2023



You Are Invited to the  
St. Luke's  
In-Person  
Sunday Morning Service  
Sunday morning  
at 9:00am

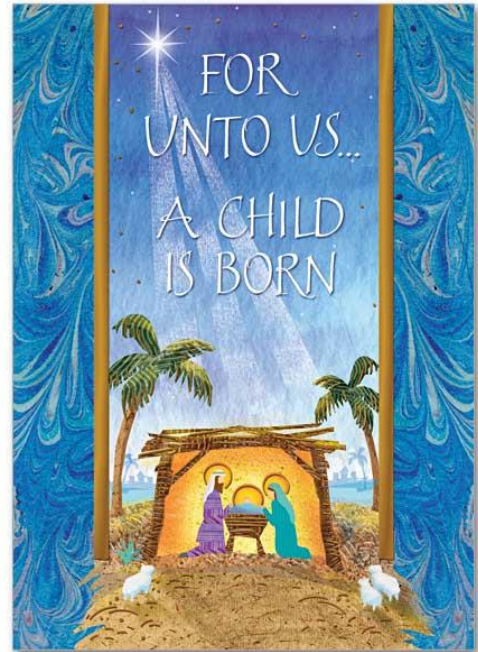
If you are unable or prefer to join us  
on Zoom, we will send you a Zoom  
invitation through email. If you are  
not receiving the email, please send  
the office an email.

LINKS TO ALL SERVICES ARE ON OUR WEBSITE  
[stlukesatascadero.org](http://stlukesatascadero.org)



ST. LUKE'S WEEKLY SERVICES

Sundays	Morning Prayer at 9 AM
Tuesdays	Evening Prayer at 5 PM
Wednesdays	Bible Study at 10 AM
Thursdays	Evening Prayer 5PM



SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE  
THANK YOU FOR SERVING

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO ARE SERVING  
ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

PRESIDER: THE REV. KAREN SIEGFRIEDT  
DEACON: THE REV. JAMES ARNOLD  
MUSICIAN: LAURA DELOYE  
FIRST LESSON AND PSALM: ANN HOLLEY  
SECOND LESSON: KATHRYN SHOWERS

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO ARE SERVING  
ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

PRESIDER: HOLLY COOPER  
PREACHER: KATHY HANSEN  
FIRST LESSON AND PSALM: KATHY HANSEN  
SECOND LESSON: JEANNE OWEN  
USHER GREETERS: LEANN BROOKS & COLTON

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ST. LUKE'S WINTER CALENDAR

December 24, 2023 No Sunday Morning Service  
December 24, 2023 Christmas Eve Service – 5:00 p.m. – Rev. Karen Siegfriedt, Presider  
December 25, 2023 No Christmas Day Service  
January 14, 2024 Annual Meeting



EVENING PRAYER HAS RESUMED

We have resumed Evening Prayer. This is a wonderful way to bookend your day with a varied and brief service every Tuesday and Thursday at 5:00 PM. You may use the link available on the St. Luke's website ([www.stlukesatascadero.com](http://www.stlukesatascadero.com)) or use any Zoom Evening Prayer invite you have on file. We welcome you to join us.



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St. Luke's Episcopal Church

# CHRISTMAS STORY



Come experience the joy of celebrating together

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24TH**

SAINT LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
INVITES YOU TO WORSHIP WITH US SINGING CHRISTMAS CAROLS  
AND HEARING THE CHRISTMAS STORY ON CHRISTMAS EVE at 5PM

FOR MORE INFO PLEASE VISIT [WWW.STLUKESATASCADERO.ORG](http://WWW.STLUKESATASCADERO.ORG)

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VESTRY OF THE WHOLE CONGREGATION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS  
December 10, 2023

**Members present:** Sam Agbo, Leann Brooks, Holly Cooper, Mike Ferree, Mary Gruber, Jan Hickok, Ann Holley, Judy Lewis, Brooks Measures and Kathryn Showers **On Zoom:** Alice Baker-Taber, Chuck Burkhardt and Marnie Burkhardt, and Jeanne Owen.

The Vestry Meeting of the Whole Congregation was called to order by Ann Holey at 10:11am

Adoption of the modified Agenda

Written Reports were accepted with thanks.

Minutes of November 12<sup>th</sup> meeting approved with exceptions.

Reaffirmation of the Vestry Covenant by those members present.

Reports:

- **Informational reports:**

- #1. Mary Gruber read the letter drafted to Canon Martha by Alice Baker-Taber, Mary, and Judy Lewis requesting her assistance in improving communication between St. Luke's and the diocese followed by Canon Martha's response to the committee.

- #2. Kathy Hansen reported her conversation with Canon Martha regarding use of a mediator to improve communication was positive, productive, hopeful and open. Canon Martha stated that using the services of a professional mediator generally costs about \$ 5,000.

- Junior Warden Ann Holley reported that cameras used in our Zoom broadcasts have been mounted on the rear and front wall of the sanctuary. The blonde shelving unit previously used to hold toys in the undercroft has been repurposed in the rear of the church as a gathering place for any child who attends services. On November 29<sup>th</sup>, Ann met with contractor Justin Ferrell to discuss his updated bid for renovation of the emergency stairs. Ferrell submitted a written bid of \$41,500.

- Kathy Hansen shared that she spoke with Canon Martha regarding St. Luke's desire to increase the pay for supply clergy to \$ 300 per Sunday for presiding and preaching at the one service. Canon Martha informed Kathy that the amount set by the diocese are a minimum and that St. Luke's can offer more if they choose. At the present time, Kathy has secured supply priests Karen Siegfriedt, Caro Hall, and Ellen Ayres to provide communion and preach three Sundays a month. Deacon Jim Arnold will lead us in morning prayer on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday.

- **Stewardship Report:** Alice Baker-Taber reported that the Stewardship campaign has concluded with 20 households pledging \$47,880 for 2024.

- **Treasurer's Report:** Leann Brooks noted that St. Luke's finances are good. Regular support from January through November 2023 was \$ 52,528; we are current in paying our fair share of \$5,650. Supply clergy compensation through November is \$ 4,769 offset by savings in rector salary. Mike Ferree moved to accept the treasurer's report for November; seconded by Jan Hickok. The motion passed. Treasurer Leann Brooks



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presented the draft budget for 2024 and the following funding changes were discussed: 1) raising supply clergy compensation to \$ 300 per Sunday to preside and serve with mileage; 2) increasing the altar guild funding to \$ 500 for supplies and flowers; 3) increasing funding for educational formation to \$ 400 per quarter. Sam Agbo moved to accept the 2024 draft budget; seconded by Mike Ferree. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

#### SENIOR WARDEN TASK REALLOCATION UPDATE

We are pleased to report that Mike Ferree has agreed to serve as the official “Sr. Warden” of St. Luke’s. This does not mean that Mike is going to do all of the work that was previously under the wing of the Sr. Warden. In fact, he will be doing only the 3 tasks that were previously identified as tasks which only a Sr. Warden can do. His main job will be reviewing and signing contracts as the official representative of the Vestry of the Whole. We are so thankful that Mike has stepped up to do this part of the work. Many people have stepped up to take on the rest of the work that needs to be done to keep St. Luke’s running but we still have a couple of outstanding items. Notably we still need someone to serve as the main writer of purchase orders. This involves going by the office once or twice a week, to look at the bills and write purchase orders so that the bookkeeper can write and mail checks. This usually amounts to 2-6 purchase orders per month. Once in a while the purchase order writer will need to check with the Jr. Warden to see if work being billed has actually been performed. The purchase order writer is important as an extra set of eyes, an extra safeguard, to the process of disbursing funds from St. Luke’s. Purchase orders are written by hand and are not complicated. If you are interested in this job, please contact Kathy Hansen or Leann Brooks – Kathy Hansen

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ALF Food Pantry  
**NEWSLETTER** Winter 2023  
Supporting Food Security in our Communities

The beginning of 2023 was met with a wet slap in the face (or, more specifically, a wet floor). During the January floods, water coming through the wall covered 75% of the Pantry floor, requiring months of repairs. We had to shut our doors

one of the repair days—the first time we've had to cancel food distribution in almost 40 years! The repair costs were kept low, due to funding from the SLO Community Foundation and the SLO County Board of Supervisors—and especially due to the 135+ hours of labor donated by ALF volunteers, as well as those from Atascadero Land Preservation.

But due to the increase in the number of clients we serve and the amount of food we provide, that building—which ALF has owned since 1995—is barely meeting our needs. Our 11 refrigerators and 12 freezers are stuffed with food. The staging areas hold up to 50 newly-prepared boxes every day. Some rooms previously available for client interviews have been repurposed as storage. We continue to search for a larger building —with more parking (an on-going problem)—to serve our growing needs.

January saw the switch to a new software program that makes our interviews with clients move more smoothly and stores the client data safely. Starting in mid-2022, our volunteer IT experts worked behind the scenes to transition to the new software that now makes it easier than ever to collect statistics required for grant applications and other needs. A grant from the Community Foundation of SLO County allowed us to purchase the necessary computer equipment.

In June, the Atascadero Kiwanis club, a long-time partner, made ALF the recipient of the proceeds of their Winemakers' Dinner. Always a successful fundraiser, the event raised \$55,000 to put towards the purchase of a new facility, for which we are thankful.

The cost to purchase the healthy food our clients need often exceeds \$600 a day. This is in addition to the food we receive free from the SLO Food Bank—we are their largest client!—and from local grocery stores, as well as in-kind donations from organizations, faith communities, and individuals. And those packed refrigerators and freezers don't run for free, despite the solar panels on our roof. Our utility costs run almost \$1,000 per month.

ALF Food Pantry is proud to be part of such a supportive community—we hope you will continue your generosity this holiday season and throughout 2024.

Thank you—

Tim Eckles—ALF Food Pantry President



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2: number of visits clients can make each month  
35: average number of boxes of groceries distributed each day (often more)  
50: pounds of food for a household of 1-3 each visit  
75: pounds of food for a household of 4-6 each visit  
100: pounds of food for a household of 7+ each visit  
120: number of active ALF volunteers  
7,658: number of client visits thus far in 2023  
47,000: average pounds of food distributed each month  
563,600: approximate pounds of food distributed in the last year

We work from a Sustainable Menu that advises what kinds of food (meat, pasta, fresh fruit and vegetables, bread, cereal, peanut butter, milk and eggs) goes into each box, balancing good nutrition with good budgeting—and every day there is “extra” food that is added to the main box, depending on what is available in ALF’s storage shelves and refrigerators.

And what do we need to pull all these numbers and procedures together? We need volunteers! We are an all-volunteer organization: volunteers purchase and unload and store groceries, they create the boxes for afternoon distribution, they meet directly with clients and distribute food. Some work weekly, some as substitutes, some to plan fundraisers, some as Board members. These individuals find great satisfaction in giving to their community through ALF—and great enjoyment in working with other volunteers. If you are interested in becoming part of the ALF team, see our website.

Despite in-kind donations, it still takes a lot of money to keep our organization running. Our grant receipts have been down the last few years, so it has fallen to our local community to keep ALF running: about 75% of our revenue comes from individuals—from the \$5 bills handed to a volunteer to the bequests left as part of an estate and everything in between. (Consider transferring stock directly to ALF and you may not have to pay taxes on it!) Please send a check or donate through our website.

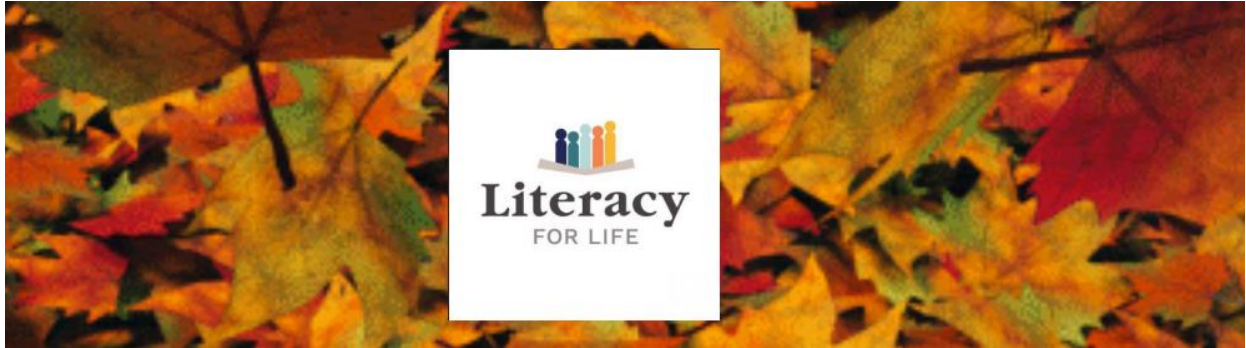
*Please keep ALF Food Pantry in mind this holiday season—and throughout the upcoming year. We absolutely cannot serve the food insecure individuals in our community without your help. Thank you.*

5411 El Camino Real  
Atascadero, CA 93422  
805.461.1504

[www.alffoodpantry.org](http://www.alffoodpantry.org)  
[contact@alffoodpantry.org](mailto:contact@alffoodpantry.org)

*(Contact us by email if you'd prefer to receive the electronic version of our newsletters)*

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As the leaves begin to change and the air becomes crisp, we at Literacy for Life are filled with gratitude for the unwavering support we have received from our dedicated tutors, eager learners, and all of our supporters.

**Welcoming New Tutors and Learners:**

Literacy for Life is committed to fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment for all. We encourage anyone interested in becoming a tutor to reach out to join our team and be part of a transformative experience. Similarly, if you or someone you know could benefit from our literacy programs, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We believe in the power of education to change lives, and we are here to support all who seek it.

**We Need You, Donors!**

Literacy knows no bounds, but it does require support. To continue our invaluable work, we depend on generous donors. Your contributions help us provide resources, materials, and opportunities for our learners and tutors.

We invite you to share this newsletter with friends, family, and colleagues who may have the means and desire to support our cause. Your network can help us connect with potential donors, tutors, and learners, amplifying the impact of our programs.

We want to express our immense gratitude for your continued support. Together, we can create a future where literacy is accessible to all, empowering individuals to pursue their dreams and reach their full potential.

**OUR MISSION: LITERACY FOR LIFE TRANSFORMS THE COMMUNITY, EMPOWERING INDIVIDUALS BY REMOVING BARRIERS TO SUCCESS AND STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH THE POWER OF LITERACY.**

**OUR VALUES:**

Inclusiveness Compassion Commitment Transparency

We value each person in our community, their unique backgrounds, and their relationships. We endeavor to treat all others with whom we encounter with caring concern and empathy. We are dedicated to furthering literacy skills in everyday life within our community. We believe in honesty and openness about what we do as we involve ourselves in the community.

[OUR WEBSITE](#)

[click to volunteer](#)



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ROOTED

*blessed & bearing fruit*

Friday, March 8, 2024 – 6:30pm-8:30pm // Saturday, March 9, 2024 – 9:00am-3pm  
Atascadero Colony Park Community Center



**\$75 Registration Fee Includes:**

- Three Sessions of Encouragement
- Uplifting Worship Music
- Coffee & Tea, Lunch
- Marketplace Shopping
- Amazing Fellowship

**Nationally Acclaimed Speaker & Author: Robyn Dykstra**

**Worship: Lisa Reiff & Courtney Spears**

But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit. Jeremiah 17:7-8

Register online at [www.ladiesconference.com](http://www.ladiesconference.com) or fill out the form below.  
If you are registering more than one person, please fill out a form for each person.

----- CUT HERE -----

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Is there a guest you want to sit with? If reserving a table of 9, include reg. form & full payment for each person.

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any dietary restrictions? \_\_\_\_\_

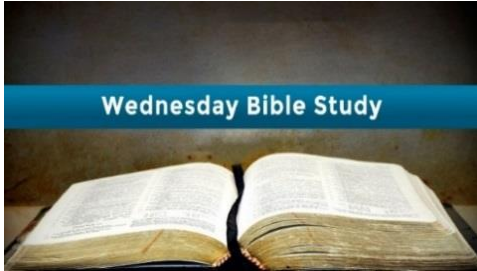
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Register online at [www.ladiesconference.com](http://www.ladiesconference.com) or fill out this form.  
Please make checks payable to Ladies' Conference. If paying online with PayPal or a credit card, \$4 will be added as a service fee. No refunds; however, you may substitute another individual by notification in advance.

Questions? Call Jan 805.466.0992 or Jody 805.975.7299  
Mail To:  
Ladies' Conference ATTN. Jan Johnson  
5260 Barranda  
Atascadero, CA 93422

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SMALL GROUP STUDIES



Bible Study has resumed! St. Luke's Bible Study Group meets Wednesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. – call Holly Cooper for the meeting location.



Gather with Taizé Music Sunday Evenings at 7:00 pm  
If interested and would like an invitation to attend, please send an email to [castlewood16@gmail.com](mailto:castlewood16@gmail.com) to get on the list.

THE BIDDING BOOK & PRAYER REQUESTS



Over the past several years the parish prayer list has experienced an enormous growth. This warms the heart. The issue has become how to most effectively offer these prayers during our worship services over the course of a week. So effectively offer our intercessions and thanksgivings we will do the following;

During the Sunday services we will pray only for those who are listed in the bidding book (which you will find on the podium at the back of the church) and from the 'chat' on Zoom. During Evening Prayer on Tuesdays and Thursdays we will offer our prayers using the parish prayer list which is managed by the Daughters of the King. This prayer list is updated and refreshed on a regular basis.

We are grateful for the faithfulness of the community in praying for those in need.

We will review this practice of sharing our corporate prayer concerns on a regular basis.