



# SAINT LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Holy Eucharist II - 5:00 O'clock PM (Vigil)

The Reverend Rebecca A. Barnes, Rector

## Our Mission Statement

To spread the Gospel to all people through hospitality, service, and spiritual growth.

**The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 20)      September 23, 2023**

**Broadcast Link:** <https://www.facebook.com/St-Lukes-Episcopal-Church-Scranton-PA-215512459865/>

*Please silence all cell-phones & digital devices until after the Service! Thank you.)*

"BCP" with a page number, refers to The Book of Common Prayer.  
The Collect of the Day, the First and Second Lessons, and the Gospel are on the bulletin insert.

### PRAYER BEFORE THE SERVICE

O Almighty God, *who pourest* out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and of supplication:  
Deliver us, when we draw near to *thee*, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind,  
that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship *thee* in spirit  
and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*All stand, as able, as the procession enters the nave.*

### THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP page 355

*The Celebrant*      Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People*              And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

### THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP page 355

### THE GLORIA

BCP page 356

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP page 233

*The Celebrant*              The Lord be with you.

*The People*                And also with you.

*The Celebrant*              Let us pray.

*All sit*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*All sit.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*All sit.*

### THE FIRST READING    **Jonah 3:10-4:11**

*Reader* A reading from the Book of Jonah.

**W**HEN GOD saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

***People***            **Thanks be to God.**

**THE PSALM    Psalm 145:1-8**

*Read in unison*

**BCP p. 801**

## THE SECOND READING      **Philippians 1:21-30**

*Reader*    A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians.

**T**O ME, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

*Reader*      The Word of the Lord.

***People***      **Thanks be to God.**

## THE HOLY GOSPEL      **Matthew 20:1-16**

*All stand, as able*

*Reader*      The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

***People***      **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

**J**ESUS SAID, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them

equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

*Reader*            The Gospel of the Lord.

***People***            Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## THE SERMON

Mother Barnes

*All sit.*

## THE NICENE CREED

BCP page 358

*All stand, as able.*

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

BCP page 359

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

Let us give thanks to the Lord and call upon God's Name as we offer our prayers for the church and the world saying: Creator God, hear our prayer.

For the Church: especially Michael our Presiding Bishop and Kevin our bishop, that we may welcome all who come to the Lord's vineyard, whoever they are and whatever the hour. ***Creator God, hear our prayer.***

For this parish family, that we may be the gospel's model of community in which there are neither first nor last, but only sisters and brothers in Christ. ***Creator God, hear our prayer.***

For all who have lost hope or are isolated from family and friends, that they may experience God's presence in their lives and recognize someone's love for them. ***Creator God, hear our prayer.***

For all who are working to aid those who are victims of earthquakes, fires and floods, that God will give them strength, wisdom and protection from harm. ***Creator God, hear our prayer.***

For greater stewardship of creation, that God will impel our hearts to oppose the misuse of earth's resources and empower us to work tirelessly to protect the magnificence of nature for future generations. ***Creator God, hear our prayer.***

For those who are suffering, lonely, or in pain, and those commended to our prayers, remembering especially, Jordan, Beverly & Frank, Elaine, Jennifer, Lynn, Rich, Mary Jane, Bill+, Robin, Heather, Chase, Jim, Francis, Carol, Althea, Stacy, Isabella, Will, Jodie, Naomi, Richard, Philomena, Kenneth, +Michael, Tyler+, Betty, Bobby, and Jesse, that God will strengthen them with healing and hope. ***Creator God, hear our prayer.***

For all the departed, remembering especially Ellen, Mary Ellen, Roy, Donna, Virginia, and Edward, that having gained Christ they may live with him for ever. ***Creator God, hear our prayer.***

Lifting our voices with all creation, with Mary the God-bearer, Michael and All Angels and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. ***To you, O God of all creation.***

*Celebrant* Gracious and merciful God, you call your children at every hour into your divine work, hear our prayers and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may be fruitful servants in your vineyard in our time and place, through Jesus Christ our Savior. ***Amen.***

## THE CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP page 359

## THE PEACE

BCP page 360

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

***People And also with you.***

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord. We ask that you please remain in your pew and exchange with those immediately near you or with a handshake, wave or bow.*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### OFFERTORY SENTENCE

*Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the deacon or celebrant. The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.*

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *Eucharistic Prayer A*

BCP page 361

## SURSUM CORDA

## SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

BCP page 362

## MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

BCP page 363

## THE GREAT AMEN

*The Celebrant then continues*

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP page 364

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*A period of silence is kept*

## THE FRACTION ANTHEM

BCP page 364

## LAMB OF GOD

BCP page 337

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

BCP page 364

*The Celebrant says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*We welcome all baptized persons, regardless of age or denomination to receive communion at Saint Luke's. If you do not wish to receive communion, we invite you to come forward to a blessing. To show that you wish to receive a blessing, please cross your arms across your chest.*

*We invite those who are joining via livestreaming to make an Act of Spiritual Communion*

<https://news.forwardmovement.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Spiritual-Communion.pdf>

## THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP page 365

## GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THE BLESSING

BCP page 339

## THE DISMISSAL

BCP page 366

*The Celebrant* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*The People* ***Thanks be to God.***

## PRAYER AFTER THE SERVICE

Grant, we beseech *thee*, Almighty God, that the words which we have heard this day with our outward ears, may, through *thy* grace, be so grafted inwardly in our hearts, that they may bring forth in us the fruit of good living, to the honor and praise of *thy* Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*The candle beside the Ambry, in which the Blessed Sacrament is reserved, has been given in loving memory of*  
**James D. & John Guzzi by Carole Guzzi.**

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## SPECIAL MINISTERS

**Saturday, 5:00 pm:** L. Savinelli, M. Savinelli (Altar Guild); L. Savinelli, M. Savinelli (Ushers); D. Kraus (Acolyte & Crucifer); S. Sollami (Lector); TBD (Intercessor); TBD (Chalice Bearer).

**Sunday, 10:00 am:** TBD (Altar Guild); **TBD** (Ushers); H. Asvazadourian (Crucifer and Acolyte); A. Wrazien, M. Huveneers (Lectors); H. Asvazadourian (Intercessor); D. Kraus (Chalice Bearer); **TBD** (Counters).

**\*Servers are needed at every service:** Readers, intercessors (prayers of the people), ushers, and coffee hour hosts are needed on a regular basis. Sign-up sheets are located in Israel lounge. If you are interested in serving, please contact Mother Barnes.

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## THIS WEEK AT ST. LUKE'S

**Welcome to St. Luke's as we return to in-person worship! Live streaming and zoom gatherings continue from St. Luke's.** Please join us on our **Facebook page** for the streaming of the services.

**\*\***(Note: if you are NOT a Facebook member, when you click on the link it will ask you to sign in or create an account, which you can ignore and just scroll down the page a bit till you see the service.)

Click **here** for a copy of the Book of Common Prayer!

Click **here** for a copy of Enriching Our Worship 1. This contains supplemental liturgical materials (i.e. Canticles) we occasionally use for Morning and Evening Prayer.

**Daily Office: Morning and Evening Prayer** – Morning Prayer at 9 AM; Evening Prayer at 5PM are live-streamed on Sunday; Tuesday through Saturday morning.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS



### **Fall Stewardship Campaign – Rooted in Abundance (September 17 – November 26)**

This weekend, St. Luke's is formally launching its fall Stewardship Campaign. The Campaign will run from **September 17<sup>th</sup> – November 26<sup>th</sup>**. We ask that you pray about how God is calling you to give this year and keep your pledge cards until the ingathering and blessing of pledges on November 26<sup>th</sup>. In recent weeks, we have learned more about the campaign in the insert in the service leaflet. "Our generosity is

informed by the simple theological truth that God has blessed us infinitely with all of the gifts of Creation. Our lives, our labor, our love is devoted to the mission of the Church when we take stock and realize that our lives and our response to God's generosity are Rooted in Abundance. Mother Barnes; Senior Warden, Mickey Baccoli; Vestry Clerk, Kathy Selemba; Treasurer, Tom Zurla; and Sharon Sollami serve on the stewardship team and are happy to answer any questions you may have about stewardship and service.

## Christian Education and Formation

### ► Children

**Sunday School: Sunday School Returned on September 10!** St. Luke's uses the **GODLY PLAY**, a Montessori-based curriculum with our younger children, ages five to ten years old. Sunday School is held at 9:30 AM every Sunday, except the first Sunday of the month. Please see Rick Ammenhauser or Mother Barnes to register your children for classes.



**Resources for Children:** We have new welcome bags for our youngest attendees to enjoy during Mass. The bags are filled with sensory engaging toys and books and are available from an usher. Weekly lectionary materials are also available for our youngest members and visitors

### ► Youth

This fall we will continue in the momentum of our Youth Confirmation Program and offer **Journey to Adulthood** (J2A) a youth ministry program of spiritual formation for 6th-12th grades. Fully revised and updated, it is centered on inclusive, relational ministry and uses Bible study, prayer, rites of passage, and outreach ministries. Creative, developmentally appropriate lessons are arranged within three categories of Self, Society, and Spirituality. For the benefit of our youth who have just been confirmed, we will use the **4Ward** cohort of J2A which is an inclusive, engaging, relational youth ministry program in a two-year cohort for ages 15-18, concluding with the 4Ward ceremony. Stayed tuned for more information!



### ► Adult

**Wednesday Bible & Book Study** - Each week, following the 12:10 Healing Eucharist the Wednesday Bible/Book Study group meets at 1:15 PM. Beginning in September, the midweek Bible study will begin **The Path: A Journey Through the Bible**. *The Path* is the story of the Bible excerpted from the New Revised Standard Version so that it is clear and easy to read. Follow the path of God's love all the way from the beginning to the end from creation and John's revelation. With informative trail signs to help one see how each piece of the narrative fits together, *The Path* is an overview of the vast, sweeping story of God's love for ordinary people. *The Path* is available through Forward Movement (<https://www.forwardmovement.org/>); pdfs will be distributed for the weekly class.



**Centering Prayer Group:** Each Thursday evening at 5:30PM an ongoing weekly Centering Prayer group meets. Centering Prayer is a contemplative form of prayer geared toward the cultivation of interior silence or "centering." For more information, contact Mother Barnes at [mthrbarnes@gmail.com](mailto:mthrbarnes@gmail.com).

### ► Intergenerational

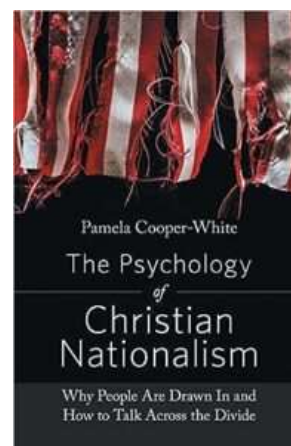
**Special Holy Hike for the Season of Creation** – On Sunday, October 1, 2023 at 3pm there will be a special Holy Hike in celebration of the Season of Creation. We will meet at the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Trailhead on Elm Street and walk towards Taylor. This section of the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail, is home to "Ohn Te Oak" ("Where they fish"), which was once a Native American fishing village and Haudenosaunee diplomacy trail from the Wyoming Valley through the Lackawanna Valley and north to Syracuse. This corridor is now a popular section of the Lackawanna River Heritage Trail that pays homage to the indigenous peoples who long ago recognized the site's natural beauty and potential as a travel route.




► ***The Psychology of Christian Nationalism: Why People Are Drawn In and How to Talk Across the Divide by Pamela Cooper-White.***

On three Thursdays in September (Sept. 7, 14, and 28) at 7PM St. Luke's will conduct a study of Dr. Cooper-White's brilliant and courageous book. One chapter of the three chapter book will be covered each evening:

- Sept 7 - Unholy Alliances: Christian Nationalism, White Supremacy, and the Pursuit of Power
- Sept 14 - Why Are People Drawn In by Extremist Beliefs? Conscious Needs and Unconscious Lures
- Sept. 28 - How to Talk Across the Divide: Creating Human Ties across (Extreme) Difference





**Daughters of the King**  
*Invite all Women of the Diocese of Bethlehem*  
**to Fall Assembly at**  
**Cathedral Church of the Nativity**  
**Bethlehem, PA**  
**October 28<sup>th</sup> - 9:00 am to 2:00 pm**

**Developing a Rule of Life**  
**The Rev. Dr. Hillary Raining**

Drawing closer to Jesus takes both desire and commitment. That's where a Rule of Life can come in. For centuries, Christians have used this discipline to order their lives to more closely conform to that of Jesus Christ.

In this workshop, Hillary Raining will help the Daughters of the King strengthen their Rules of Life and bring deeper peace to their daily practices. All women of the Bethlehem Diocese are invited to join the members of Daughters of the King for this event.

Come for a day of refreshment, creation, and conversation.

Kindly register by October 24 to: [mfd.dok@gmail.com](mailto:mfd.dok@gmail.com)  
 Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.



► **Wear Your Evangelism:** Members of St. Luke's Fundraising Team will soon be taking orders for shirts and hats that feature two embroidered logos; one that incorporates the traditional winged ox with our motto, "*In the heart of things*"; and the other with the Episcopal shield with our parish name and location. The polos and baseball caps are available in more than a dozen colors and multiple sizes, including youth sizes. We are not limited in the ways to show our logos; we are also considering offering reusable bags, water bottles, knit hats, screen printed t-shirts, and sweatshirts as interest grows. Is our goal to raise money for the general fund? Yes. As important though is our desire to make St. Luke's folks easily recognizable to new comers at parish events, or as we serve in the community. Our logos are striking and will invite those who see them to ask about our parish and its ministries giving us all the opportunity to invite people to worship or to learn more about who we are and what we believe. Pricing information and order forms will be available soon. Check out the display in Kreitler Hall of available items. If you have questions, or would like to place an order, please see Mother Barnes, Mickey Baccoli, Rick Ammenhauser, Tom Zurla, and Sharon Sollami.





► **Friends Helping Friends** - St. Luke's is again participating in Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends" fundraiser. You can purchase a 25% off shopping pass to be used in store on Wednesday, October 18, 2023 at all Boscov's stores; the \$5.00 purchase price goes directly to St. Luke's general fund. The passes make a nice surprise gift for mom, daughter, grandma, aunt, or any special shopper in your life. With your purchase you'll be entered to win a \$100 Boscov's gift card, too. The passes are available from any vestry member or in the church office. If you have any questions, or would like to help in selling the passes, contact Rick Ammenhauser at (570) 347-8681.

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► **Senior Space Returns:** On Sunday, September 24, following the 10:00AM Mass, St. Luke's Vestry will host Senior Space, a long-standing ministry of our parish in which our downtown neighbors are invited to join us for a luncheon, entertainment, and kinship. The goal is to provide our guests, many of them seniors, with an opportunity for socialization to minimize the loneliness and isolation so many of them are experiencing. What better way to do that than around the table with conversation, fun, and a great meal? The vestry is looking for volunteers to assist on the day of the event and hopes that you will consider volunteering to serve. A sign-up sheet with specific responsibilities will be posted in Israel Lounge. We are looking for six people/families to bake one dozen brownies each (no nuts, please) for a homemade dessert, and six more parties to donate a dozen soft dinner rolls; that sign-up sheet will also be posted in Israel Lounge. The vestry is also looking for someone who would consider donating their musical talent to provide some entertainment for our guests. Perhaps you could provide a music background during lunch by playing the piano or leading in a few songs? If so, please see Mother Barnes to be considered.

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**DOK Service Project** (*Submitted by Carol Winn*) St. Luke's St. Elizabeth of Hungary Chapter of the Daughters of the King will begin collecting items for the Women's Resource Center this September. The Women's Resource Center provides services including emergency shelter and safe housing for those affected by domestic violence in Lackawanna and Susquehanna Counties. A collection box will be available at the back of the nave. Donations of the following items would greatly assist those in need:

- Full-size personal hygiene items (deodorant, soap, shampoo, lotion)
- Combs, brushes, nail clippers, etc.
- Twin and queen bedding in good condition (blankets, sheets, pillowcases)
- Towels and washcloths
- Laundry detergent
- Size 6-7 toddler's diapers (no infant diapers please)
- Suitcases
- Fabric tote bags
- Non-perishable food items (canned meats, vegetables, peanut butter, noodles, pasta, spaghetti sauce, etc.)

The DOK greatly appreciate your participation in this ongoing service to our community.

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## SAVE THE DAY!

**St. Luke's Annual First Friday Blessing of the Animals,**  
October 6, 2023:

Doors open from 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm.

Pet Blessing will be at 6:30 P.M. All pets are welcome (leashed or in cages, please).

In addition to the blessing service, St. Cats and Dogs will be our special guests and will have cats available for adoption. Briar Ledge Jewelry will also be a guest vendor.



## Diocesan Convention - October 13 & 14

Diocesan Convention this year will be a two-day, in-person event on **October 13 and October 14, 2023**, at the Centennial Conference Center in Center Valley, PA.

Friday evening will include a diocesan worship service followed by dinner, featuring Bishop Clarence Bester, Bishop of Wangaratta from the Anglican Church of Australia. All are welcome to attend but we ask that you please register for this worship and dinner to guarantee your seat. We will begin gathering at 4:30 p.m., with worship beginning at 5:30 p.m. and dinner beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday will include the business portion of Diocesan Convention for canonical clergy, elected convention delegates, and alternates. Check-in will begin at 9:00 a.m. with the hope of convention being called to order at 10:00 a.m. and finishing before 3:00 p.m.

Further details about Diocesan Convention such as elections, hotel rooms, and resolutions will be published to the diocesan website as they become available. For more information visit: <https://diobeth.org/diocesan-convention/>.

**In a Pastoral Emergency, please contact**—The Reverend Rebecca A. Barnes, Rector at 646-533-1836/e-mail at [mthrbarnes@gmail.com](mailto:mthrbarnes@gmail.com). If you, or a family member, are in the hospital, a health care facility, or are home bound and would like to have a visit from Mother Barnes or a member of our Pastoral Care Committee, please contact the parish office. Due to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, commonly known as HIPAA, hospitals no longer automatically provide churches with names of admitted parishioners. If you or a family member are hospitalized or in a health care facility someone acting on your behalf will need to notify the church to assure that proper pastoral care may be offered. St. Luke's church complies with all HIPAA requirements and cannot provide personal information for sick or injured members without permission of the member or his or her close family member. Additionally, if you or a loved one are hospitalized or homebound and desire regular Eucharistic visitation, please notify the parish office. Eucharistic Visitations are customarily made once per month; weekly visits may be scheduled upon request.



## September 24, 2023 – Pentecost 17 (A) United Thank Offering Grants

The United Thank Offering Board is pleased to announce the availability of its 2024 UTO Annual Grants, with a focus on projects that welcome and include “the stranger.” Application deadlines are **Dec. 1** for Anglican Communion partners and **Jan. 19** for dioceses of The Episcopal Church.

More information—including criteria for applicants, sample budgets and timelines, and helpful hints—as well as application and other forms are available online in English and Spanish here: <https://unitedthankoffering.com/apply/>. Instructional videos created by the UTO grants committee will be posted online.

In addition, informational webinars will be held throughout the fall, as well as monthly open office hours for staff to work directly with applicants on their materials. Dates and registration links are available here: <https://iam.ec/uto2024dates>.

This is the second of a three-year United Thank Offering grant focus on those whom society has left out and behind, in the spirit of Matthew 25:36. The 2023 grants—recently approved—support 22 projects related to the worldwide incarceration crisis. The 2024 grants will fund projects that welcome people with differences that cause isolation and that encourage truth-telling, acknowledging historic trauma, and establishing a path toward healing.

Applications may be submitted in advance of the deadlines for review and feedback. Learn more about the United Thank Offering, a ministry of The Episcopal Church: <https://unitedthankoffering.com/>.

*The United Thank Offering (UTO) is a ministry of The Episcopal Church for the mission of the whole church. Through UTO, individuals are invited to embrace and deepen a personal daily spiritual discipline of gratitude. UTO encourages people to notice the good things that happen each day, give thanks to God for those blessings and make an offering for each blessing using a UTO Blue Box. UTO is entrusted to receive the offerings, and to distribute the 100% of what is collected to support innovative mission and ministry throughout The Episcopal Church and Provinces of the Anglican Communion.*



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When I think of being rooted in abundance, the first image that comes to mind is my grandmother. In my small hometown in Zacatecas, my grandmother's house was where everybody went for a meal or a listening ear. Her table served not just food but wisdom. My people were poor, but there was always enough. We learned how to give what we had for the good of everyone. I was taught that giving meant more than just giving money. My grandmother taught me to give myself fully to God.

My roots are my cultura. In Latino culture, it's never about the individuals or the immediate family but about being rooted in each other. My grandmother's life was hard, but she was so connected to God, the earth, and all that is holy. Being in Austin, where I teach at the Seminary of the Southwest, has called me to grow closer to her and her lessons. I felt disconnected from anything familiar for the first few months here. I didn't yet see that God was planting me in a new place and that something new was growing within me. Now I know that my colleagues here are also my people. I feel my roots taking hold of the land here, and I will trust God. If my grandma can do it, so can I.



#### *Questions for Reflection:*

Talk about a time when you were planted in a new place or a new position. How did you find a root structure to ground you?

Trees are an image of stewardship of abundance and not just survival. Communities of color and poor communities in the episcopal church are sometimes treated as "poor people" who can't give. We must switch that mentality and consider these communities' newly planted trees. They will not grow overnight, but if we care for and nurture them, these communities will thrive and plant deep roots. The roots will be interconnected in a community of love of God and neighbor where there is always enough for everyone. | [tens.org](https://www.tens.org)



*The Reverend Nancy Aidé Frausto is Director of Latinx Studies, Seminary of the Southwest.*



THE EPISCOPAL NETWORK FOR STEWARDSHIP

Upcoming Concerts at St. Luke's

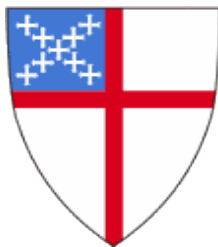
The Lyric Consort presents  
**An American Journey**  
Music of Billings, Thompson, Barber, & more



**The  
Lyric  
Consort**  
*Since 1993*

Saturday, October 7, 2023, 8pm  
St. Luke's Episcopal Church of Scranton

Reception to Follow  
\$10.00 General Admission



**ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**"In the heart of things"**

**HOLY EUCHARIST**

**Saturdays: 5:00 P.M. Holy Eucharist (Said)**

(Followed by Coffee Hour in Kreitler Hall on the first week of the month.)

**Sundays: 10:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist (Sung)**

(Please join us each week for Coffee Hour in Kreitler Hall  
following the Sunday service)

The first Sunday of each month we offer a "Family Eucharist" with special participation by our youth. On all other Sundays, Sunday School is offered for younger children at 9:30 A.M.

**Wednesdays: 12:10 P.M. Holy Eucharist with prayers  
and anointing for healing**

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**The Rev'd Rebecca A. Barnes, Rector**

**Ms. Maria Zengion, Organist and Choirmaster**

**The Vestry**

Mickey Baccoli, (2025—Senior Warden), Rick Ammenhauser (2024 —Junior Warden),  
Kathy Selemba (2025—Clerk), Francis McMullen (2024), Bernard Ott (2025),  
Sharon Sollami (2026), and Thomas Zurla (2026 – Treasurer)

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Phone: (570) 342-7654

Office Hours: Tuesday thru Friday 8:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.



**St. Luke's**  
**EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

