

Looking forward

News about Intercessors

Servers are needed at every service: Readers, ushers, and coffee hour hosts are needed on a regular basis, as is an intercessor. An intercessor is one who prays on behalf of others, and as is the case here at St. Luke's, someone who leads the prayers of the people. Often, the intercessor leads the prayers from among the people, in the center aisle, rather than from the lectern. In this way, the intercessor is "among the people" as he/she prays on our behalf, and it is more inclusive for people who would prefer to avoid the steps to the lectern. The Vestry has decided to move the prayers of the people to the center aisle in the hope that more people will consider serving in this capacity. As the intercessor, one would need only to step into the center aisle, face the Chancel, and read the prayers as provided, or from the BCP page 392. If you have any questions, please see Senior Warden Mickey Baccoli for additional information.

Reunified Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna

The Conventions of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania and the Diocese of Bethlehem both voted to reunify on October 19, 2024. Both dioceses will enter into 2025 as the "Year of Transition (2025)" during which time we will continue to deepen our relationship, align systems and budgets, further develop the Constitution and Canons for a reunified diocese and much more. We will officially become the Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna on January 1, 2026.

The Diocese of Bethlehem voted 90 in support, 14 against. The Diocese of Central Pennsylvania voted 131 in support, 24 against. The votes were announced simultaneously to each Convention and then again when delegates came together for a shared lunch and joint service of Holy Eucharist.

Bishop Nichols of the Diocese of Bethlehem said, "During the last year, the work of the Reunification Discernment Committee was intentional and comprehensive, engaging with a large portion of the Diocese of Bethlehem to include a wide range of opinions and perspectives. I am grateful for everyone's efforts towards this important discernment and am eager to begin the work of becoming one body as the Diocese of the Susquehanna."

The Rt. Rev. Audrey C. Scanlan, Bishop of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania, said, "I am delighted that our two dioceses have chosen this way forward to reunite and serve God's Mission together. This is bold and courageous work and we live in hope that with God, all things are possible! (Mt. 19:26) The next year for us- a Year of Transition- will invite us to deepen our relationships as we merge committees and ministries. It will be good and holy work that will secure the Episcopal presence in our part of Pennsylvania for generations to come."

The next steps for our Dioceses involve the formation of a Leadership Team and Working Groups to take on the projects involved with the Year of Transition. There are postcards with information about how you might get involved in serving as we become the reunified diocese we are being called to be.

Join a Working Group & Stay Tuned for More!

The next steps into transition will be initiated by our Bishops and Standing Committees. They will be appointing a Transition Leadership Team with representatives from our leadership bodies and at-large members to help coordinate and guide various dimensions of this transition process.

Working Groups will be appointed in areas such as Constitution and Canons, Finance, Shield & Branding for the Diocese of the Susquehanna, Mission Granting and more! Deadline for applications is November 15.

If you are interested in joining the Transition Team or participating in a Working Group, point your phone camera at the QR code and tap the banner for the list and application form. Help us become the Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna!



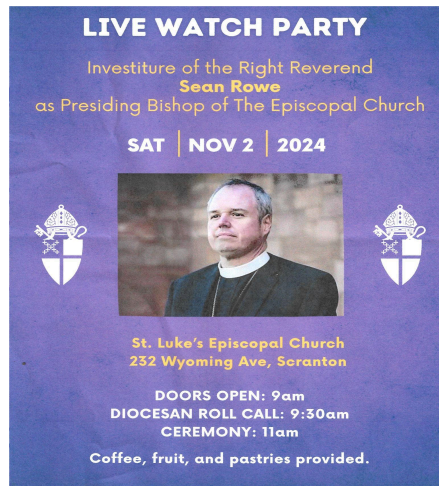
-The Reunification Discernment Committee

The Lyric Consort

The Lyric Consort opens their 2024-2025 season here at St. Luke's on October 26 at 7:30PM with Sweet Dissonance. This will be a beautiful and moving performance. Admission is free, donations will be gratefully received.

Cypress House Update

The Cypress House Board of Directors has published its Annual Report, which can be found at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/11K2sbOg3yV2BZVCkt8nauQak48GxwvbM/view> In it you'll find a wealth of information about the accomplishments of the past year, board members, projects, and more.



Election Night Virtual Prayers

Join The Episcopal Church on Election Night (November 5th) for a time of silence and prayer led by Presiding Bishop-elect Sean Rowe who will kick off the evening with a reflection at 8 p.m. ET, followed by prayers for our nation and all people. Register for the online Zoom gathering here: iam.ec/envp or watch on Facebook Live: fb.com/TheEPPN

Save the dates

Saturday, December 7, 2024 - Women of St. Luke's Annual Christmas Luncheon

