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# WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in St. Luke's Episcopal Church, a thriving modern congregation that has been welcoming people into our loving, action-oriented community for more than 150 years.

Our church is well named in that it enthusiastically embraces the teachings of Luke's Gospel. As our interim rector, the Rev. Michael White, has proclaimed: St. Luke's is a church that is "For the whole person, and for the whole world."

Our pulpit has hosted brilliant, inspirational, and life-changing rectors from one generation to the next. Now, we're searching for our next leader.

As part of that search process, we've compiled this Parish Profile to give those interested in becoming our next rector a look at who we are, what makes us unique, and the goals we have in mind for our next chapter.

We hope this information gives you a window into St. Luke's that informs your discernment. Let us know your interest.





## WHO WE ARE. WHERE WE'RE HEADED.

From its founding in 1864 amid the American Civil War, St. Luke's has been a beacon of Christian discipleship for the Atlanta community, influenced in no small part by our location in the heart of the city on iconic Peachtree Street. Our parish has been shaped by the conviction that faithful worship and faithful service belong together. Across generations, St. Luke's has blended spirit-filled worship, exceptional music, prayer, and education with a deep commitment to answering God's call to serve our neighbors—especially the most vulnerable—as the heart, hands, and feet of Christ in the world.

Today, St. Luke's is stronger than ever. As a vibrant downtown parish, we attract people from across the metro area who are seeking a community they cannot find elsewhere. Ours is a church marked by deep relationships, spirited and thoughtful conversation, and an uncommon level of engagement. We are curious, committed, and unafraid of complexity. We bring together business leaders, health care workers, artists, educators, activists, and seekers of all kinds under a Big Tent—learning from one another as we pursue faith, meaning, and joy in a changing world.

We are beginning 2026 with tremendous momentum after several years of strong growth and healthy stewardship. We're excited to find and welcome our next rector who will shepherd St. Luke's in its vital role as a leader and life-changer in Atlanta.





As we look ahead, several shared priorities shape our discernment:

**A VITAL AND GROWING PARISH**

Rather than defining vitality by numbers alone, St. Luke’s seeks depth of relationship, meaningful engagement, and faithful participation in worship and mission across generations. We understand the flourishing of children, youth, and families as central to the health of the whole parish, and we are eager to explore innovative and sustainable ways of welcoming new people into authentic belonging and shared purpose.

**A PUBLIC CHURCH  
IN THE HEART  
OF THE CITY OF  
ATLANTA**

For many years, St. Luke’s has served as a leading voice in our city. At St. Luke’s, being a Public Church means understanding the life of the parish as inseparable from the life of the city. Rooted in worship and prayer, St. Luke’s shows up visibly and faithfully in Atlanta’s public life: opening our doors, sharing our resources, and engaging the hopes, struggles, and questions of our neighbors. We serve as a place for gathering and belonging, celebration and lament, service and dialogue, trusting

*We are  
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complexity.*

that the Gospel is lived not only within our walls but in the streets, institutions, and relationships that shape our common life. As a Public Church, we will continue as the go-to place for local, Diocesan, state and national services, conferences, celebrations, and laments.

**A BIG TENT COMMUNITY OF  
WELCOME AND BELONGING**

We hold space for diverse identities, perspectives, and questions, trusting that

God is at work in the fullness of our common life. We value being a living example of St. Paul’s exhortation to the Church in Corinth: “the Body of Christ has many members, and all are one Body.” Our communicants have a wide variety of backgrounds, skillsets, and spiritual gifts. Some occupy high levels in Atlanta’s business, professional, and philanthropic worlds, others lead compelling small groups, and still others till the soil

in the Mustard Seed Garden or serve food to our neighbors experiencing homelessness. A church that values diversity of income, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, and political thought must constantly work to create the welcoming and inclusive environment it seeks.



**MAGNETIC WORSHIP, ROBUST  
FORMATION AND LIFELONG  
LEARNING**

There is a deep spiritual hunger amongst our members and a fervent desire to learn and deepen our faith. On Sunday mornings, many parishioners come from across the metro Atlanta area—often passing other churches along the way—drawn by worship that is reverent, joyful, and alive. We value the magical, deeply touching moments a world class music program produces. We love bold, stirring messages from the pulpit in a setting that is also respectful of the very best parts of our centuries-old traditions. Outside of worship, when we file into the parish hall and classrooms, our members thrive when offered opportunities to engage in rigorous studies. St. Luke’s has filled our meeting rooms for lectures and classes that cover everything from the Gospel of John, Atlanta’s persistent economic inequality, Elaine Pagels’ take on the Gnostic Gospels, and Pádraig Ó Tuama’s poetry and spirituality. We have a rich tradition of challenging and enlightening programs. Even so, we want to expand our opportunities for learning about our faith and how we can express it in the world.

**STEWARDSHIP AND VISION FOR  
OUR CAMPUS**

Unlike many in-town churches, St. Luke’s is blessed to sit on seven acres on iconic Peachtree Street in the path of growth southward from Midtown and northward through our part of Downtown. Much of this land is currently utilized as surface parking lots which the church uses when needed. However, this land can be put to better use, to generate revenue that supports the church’s long-term mission and for development that benefits the congregation and broader community. In recent years accelerated growth and development in the vicinity of St. Luke’s has resulted in new high-density projects. The City has prioritized Downtown—our neighborhood—for revitalization, and projects that develop large swaths of Downtown are in flight. Bordering the Church’s property, Atlanta is moving forward with the massive Stitch project, which will build a park covering the city’s main interstate artery that would transform the area adjoining St. Luke’s. We see our campus as both a gift and a responsibility—offering opportunities to strengthen the parish’s mission, support long-term sustainability, and serve the wider community in new ways.





## **DEEPENING CONNECTION AND SHARED LIFE**

St. Luke's parishioners value relationships that extend beyond worshiping together on Sundays. We have a new, active, neighborhood-based program that has fostered some special moments and new friendships and provides an avenue for us to live into our baptismal covenant. We also have a large slate of community ministries that offer opportunities to both serve others and nurture meaningful relationships. We seek to build upon existing small groups, neighborhood connections, and outreach ministries to create clearer pathways for new and long-time members alike to connect, serve, and grow together.

St. Luke's is a parish that embraces courage, curiosity, and collaboration. We are grounded in tradition yet open to new possibilities, confident that God is not finished with us. We look forward to discerning, with our next rector, how the Spirit is calling St. Luke's to flourish and serve in the years ahead.







“For I can do  
everything  
through  
Christ, who  
gives me  
strength.”

**PHILIPPIANS 4:13**

## OUR NEXT RECTOR

St. Luke’s is in a healthy place, according to our recent parish survey of the congregation and multiple “listening” sessions with engaged members. Parish members are feeling wholeness, fulfillment, and peace and are guided by purpose and passion with intention. Now is the time to turn outward and discern what God is calling us to do next with our abundance. Our next Rector will be a key to growth and incorporating new people into the life of the church.

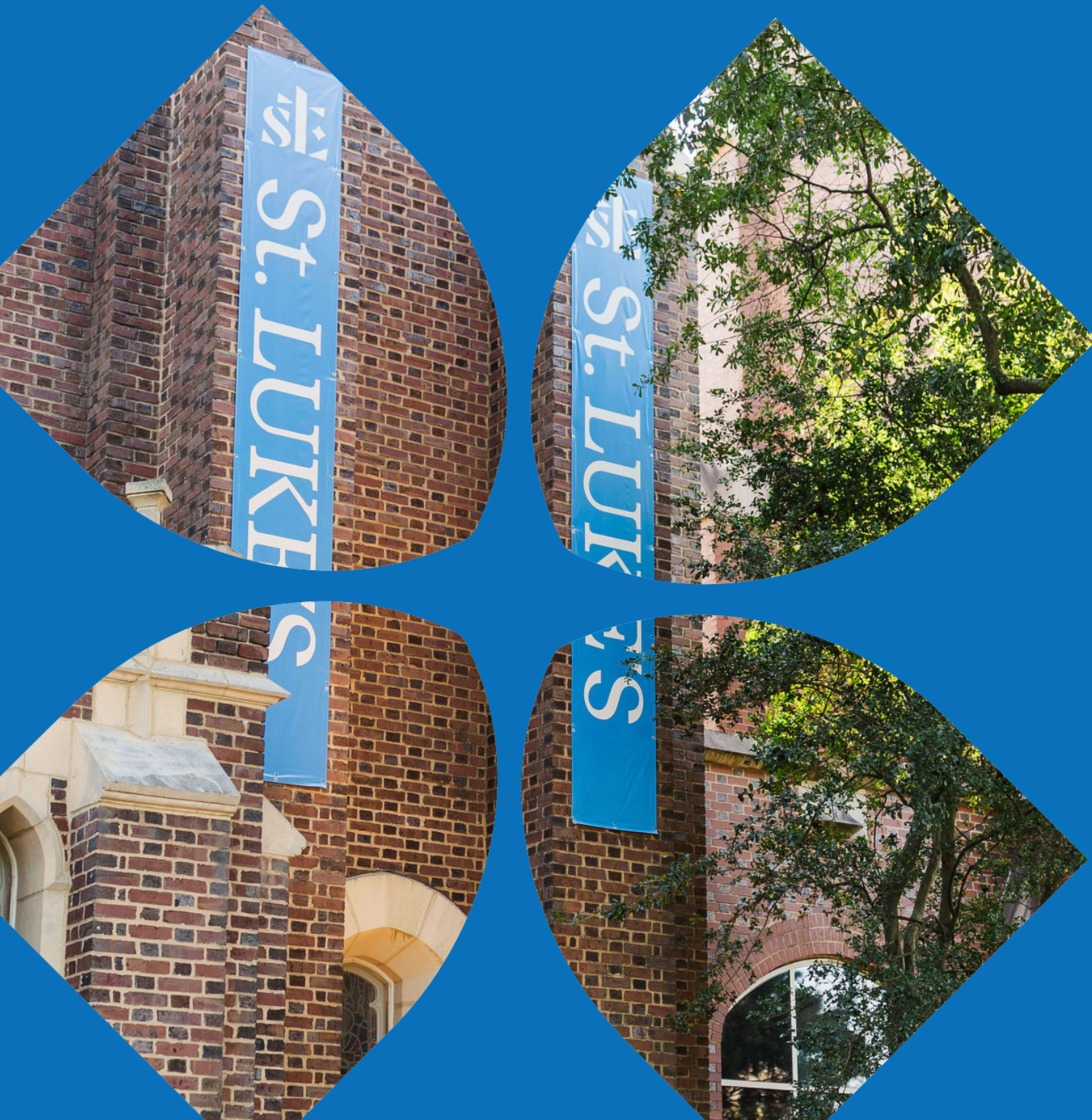
We need a rector who is exhilarated by the call and challenge of leading a church of St. Luke’s size, potential, and unique gifts. That will require a senior leader who is an inspiring preacher, is spiritually gifted, and who will continue to build trust through transparency around information sharing and decision making while working collaboratively with the Vestry and congregation.

We want to call someone who will be fulfilled by their role as rector and has the experience to effectively lead our staff, engage with our finances, and lovingly manage the complexity that an endowed parish with a 120-year-old beloved building requires. We seek a leader who recognizes St. Luke’s for the remarkable place that it is and has a vision for building on our unique strengths as a church community and a cornerstone of the civic fabric of our city.

According to the congregation, desired qualities of the St. Luke’s Rector include being approachable, warm, welcoming, respectful and accepting, and genuine, with integrity and a sense of humor. We pray for a Rector that can connect in-reach and outreach opportunities and create small communities within the church, especially for families, children and youth. We want a pastor who can be with us in times of need and lift us with God’s presence. We find an overriding yearning for stability that a new rector’s presence will bring.



“To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.” EPHESIANS 4:12–13



## HISTORY

St. Luke's has long understood Christian faith as inseparable from engagement with the injustices of our time. Across generations, the parish has wrestled openly with racism, homelessness, homophobia, xenophobia, gun violence, and mass incarceration—while also acknowledging that our own history reflects the prejudices that have shaped the United States, particularly in the South. We believe faithful witness requires both action and humility.

Consecrated in 1864 during the Civil War, St. Luke's was born amid conflict and upheaval. Our first rector served as a chaplain and physician in the Confederate Army, and our first chapel was destroyed, along with much of Atlanta, during General William T. Sherman's march through Georgia. From the beginning, the parish has existed at the intersection of faith, history, and the moral questions of its day.

Our reputation for Christian social engagement took clearer shape during the rectorship of the Rev. Dr. Cary B. Wilmer, who served for 24 years beginning in 1900 and oversaw construction of our current church

building. Wilmer was progressive by the standards of the Jim Crow South: he publicly denounced child labor, challenged corruption in Atlanta's city government, and condemned the 1906 Atlanta Race Riots, in which white mobs murdered an estimated 24 Black citizens. In response, he organized a protest meeting at the City Council to condemn the lawlessness of white citizens.

Three months later, Wilmer participated in a four-hour, transcribed conversation

with scholar and civil rights leader W. E. B. Du Bois on the moral responsibilities of white moderates. At the same time, Wilmer—like many of his era—believed in racial segregation.

Du Bois did not shy away from naming these differences, yet he also commended Wilmer for his willingness to publicly confront white violence against Black Atlantans. We hold this chapter honestly: as a story of courage,

limitation, and the enduring call to deeper faithfulness.

In the 1960s and 1970s, as many downtown congregations followed their mostly white parishioners to the suburbs, St. Luke's chose to remain in the city and reimagine its vocation. Under the leadership of the Rev. Tom Bowers beginning in 1971, the parish entered a pivotal season—bridging long-standing

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members and newcomers committed to a renewed focus on racial justice and poverty.

During this period, St. Luke's became an incubator for community-based ministries that would take on lives of their own. Our soup kitchen grew into Crossroads Community Ministries. Our food pantry evolved into the Atlanta Community Food Bank. The Training and Counseling Center (TACC) was founded to provide mental health care, and the Street Academy eventually became Communities In Schools, supporting thousands of Atlanta children living in poverty.

By the 1980s, St. Luke's continued breaking new ground. In 1980, the Rev. Dan Matthews Sr. hired the Rev. Dr. Reynell (Rey) Parkins, who became the first Black priest to serve in a majority-white congregation in Atlanta. By the 1990s, when Archbishop Desmond Tutu visited St. Luke's, the parish had begun to reflect more fully the diversity of the city it serves.

Over the past quarter-century, St. Luke's has continued this legacy through worship, public witness, and partnership. We have hosted the Union of Black Episcopalians and the Feast of Absalom Jones, welcomed the Atlanta Gay Men's Chorus, and convened standing-room-only lectures by voices such as Bryan Stevenson, author of *Just Mercy: A True Story of the Fight for Justice*. We partnered with Ebenezer Baptist Church to support 60 disadvantaged youths, beginning in their elementary school years and continuing all the way through their completion of high school and college.

The day after the U.S. Supreme Court legalized same-sex marriage in 2015, St. Luke's hosted the Atlanta faith community's celebration of the ruling. More than 600 parishioners and visitors from all over metro Atlanta filled the sanctuary for a spirited and moving service. It was one of the greatest moments representing the best of our church, promoting love and inclusion. In 2018, St. Luke's parishioners opened the Boyce L. Ansley School, a tuition-free private school for children who have experienced homelessness.



The years 2020–2025 brought one of the most testing and formative seasons in St. Luke's history. The COVID-19 pandemic, a renewed national reckoning with racial injustice, political polarization, and changing patterns of church life challenged long-held assumptions about worship, community, and leadership. In response, St. Luke's adapted quickly—moving worship, formation, vestry meetings, and pastoral care online while sustaining sacramental life, prayer, and connection. Livestreamed services for Holy Week, Easter, and Christmas, virtual small groups, and expanded pastoral outreach allowed the parish to remain present to one another and to the wider community during a time of isolation and loss.

In key seasons of transition and formation, St. Luke's has been guided by respected leaders whose influence extends well beyond the parish. The Rev. Ed Bacon served as Interim Rector during a time of discernment, bringing

his prophetic voice, theological rigor, and commitment to radical inclusion, while also strengthening practices of transparency, communication, and shared leadership in parish governance. The Rev. Winnie Varghese also served St. Luke's with distinction, shaping the parish through thoughtful preaching, expansive theology, and a deep commitment to inclusive leadership. The Rev. Michael White is currently guiding the Church through an important period of healing and rebuilding during our interim. Together, their ministries reflect St. Luke's long-standing openness to leaders who guide congregations through change with clarity, trust, and faithfulness.

For generations, St. Luke's has risen to the challenges facing Atlanta with courage, creativity, and faith. We understand our history not as a finished story, but as an ongoing invitation—to repent where needed, to act where called, and to love boldly in the heart of the city.





“Worship the LORD  
with gladness; come  
into his presence  
with singing.”

PSALM 100:2



# WORSHIP & MUSIC

## WORSHIP

As a congregation, St. Luke’s values the beautiful Anglican traditions of the Episcopal Church. We are bound together by our common liturgy that defines who we are and how we are to live as Christians.

Traditionally, St. Luke’s has held regular in-person Sunday services at 8 a.m., 9 a.m., and 11:15 a.m., with an average Sunday attendance of more than 400. Nearly 30 volunteer greeters and ushers create a welcoming and inviting environment for both long-time parishioners and first-time visitors.

Lay people play many important roles in worship at St. Luke’s. Whether virtual

or in-person, there are nearly 80 lay volunteers taking part in services each week. Parishioners ring bells, prepare the altar, read scripture, arrange flowers, light candles, serve communion, lead prayers, and facilitate the liturgy, all while supporting the priests as they share the Gospel, preach, and celebrate the Eucharist.

Traditional liturgy (sometimes with a St. Luke’s twist) is an integral part of our otherwise progressive congregation. We enjoy an outdoor “Jazz Mass” on the front lawn several times per year. Professional liturgical dancers complement our annual Palm Sunday procession, and special blessings are given for pregnancies, bookbags, and pets. Our parishioners value the familiarity of the Episcopal liturgy and the Eucharist as the central focus of our worship.





MUSIC

Music at St. Luke’s is nationally acclaimed for its vibrancy, commitment to excellence, and intentional diversity.

During our Sunday services, we primarily sing from The Hymnal 1982; Lift Every Voice & Sing II, an African American hymnal; and Wonder, Love & Praise, a supplement to The Hymnal 1982. Our music program consists of various choirs who sing standard Anglican anthems and music reflecting a variety of cultures and composers. Our program is led by Matthew Michael Brown as full-time Director of Music, Colleen Kingston a part-time Associate Director of Children and Youth Choirs, and a part-time Associate Organist. St. Luke’s, in partnership with the Association of Anglican Musicians, was host to the 2024-2025 Gerre Hancock Intern in Church Music.

The Adult Choir at St. Luke’s consists of 40 committed singers with a broad range of choral experience. The St. Luke’s Schola (staff singers) lead music for the 9 a.m. service, and the full St. Luke’s Choir sings for the weekly 11:15 a.m. service. The Adult Choir also participates in the following:

*Music at St. Luke’s is nationally acclaimed for its vibrancy, commitment to excellence, and intentional diversity.*

MONTHLY CHORAL EVENSONG

Nearly the entire service is sung or chanted by the choir and the officiating cleric or lay cantor. A 45-minute recital often precedes the service and sometimes includes the dedication of memorial gifts.

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

Lectors, chosen by the Director of Music, include parish leadership and executive directors of non-profit organizations throughout the city of Atlanta.

Recent projects include the southeastern premiere of Our Wildest Imagining, a composition by Dominick DiOrio to honor the legacy of The Rt. Rev. Gene Robinson. Bishop Robinson was present for the premiere on Pride Sunday in October 2025. Other recent projects include a collaboration with The Temple to commemorate the 87th anniversary of Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass).

As one of the largest choirs in the Diocese of Atlanta, the adult choir has twelve professional staff singers. This choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings beginning in August and ending in late May.

St. Luke’s is an affiliate of the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) and is pleased to offer the largest Chorister



program in the Diocese of Atlanta. St. Luke’s offers three choirs for children and youth. An estimated 65 children and youth annually participate. Using the RSCM’s acclaimed Voice for Life curriculum, choristers receive an outstanding musical education while developing their vocal skills, liturgical and musical understanding, and knowledge of repertoire. These choirs are:

PREPARATORY CHOIR

(Pre-K-2nd Grade), rehearses Sundays during Children’s Chapel

JUNIOR CHORISTERS

(Grades 3-5), rehearses Sundays 10 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

SENIOR CHORISTERS

(Grades 6-12), rehearses Sundays 10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

St. Luke’s offers a vibrant concert series known as Music at St. Luke’s. Support for this year-long series comes from the parish’s annual operating budget and the Friends of Music. Programming is purposefully broad in scope and diversity, reflecting St. Luke’s presence as a downtown parish. St. Luke’s has

enjoyed several ensembles-in-residence in recent years, including Ensemble VIM and The Mosaic String Quartet. Performances are often live-streamed and shared on St. Luke’s social media platforms. The series includes the annual Concert for a Cause, which benefits one of Atlanta’s many non-profit organizations. During Advent, a mini-series called Lunchtime Live! features 30-minute concerts followed by a light lunch in the Parish Hall.

Perhaps the most notable part of Advent is the annual Messiah Sing-Along, a tradition now spanning 50 years. The greater Atlanta community is invited to sing Handel’s celebrated oratorio, accompanied by instrumentalists from the Atlanta Symphony and renowned soloists. St. Luke’s hosts an annual Chorister Festival each November which is directed by a nationally acclaimed guest conductor. Recent conductors include Bruce Neswick, Bryan Zaros, Mary Wannamaker Huff, and Brandon Straub. Choristers also enjoy frequent tours, including recent visits to Grace Church Cathedral, Charleston, SC, and Trinity Church in Boston, MA.







In June 2026, St. Luke's will serve as host for the 60th Annual Conference of the Association of Anglican Musicians, which will feature the premiere of a newly commissioned musical setting of the Eucharist by acclaimed American composer, Jessica French.

St. Luke's has also made a commitment to annually commission music by under-represented composers for traditional liturgies of the Episcopal Church. Recent commissions include new music by Marty Wheeler Burnett, Dominick DiOrio, David Hurd, Texu Kim, Carl MaultsBy, Dorothy Papadakos, and Nicholas White.

### OUR ORGAN

An essential part of St. Luke's music program is the Alston Memorial Pipe Organ, one of the largest and most magnificent instruments in the United States with over 5,000 pipes. In 2020, a secondary console was added in the balcony that allows the entire organ to be played from the rear of the church. The instrument recently underwent a major refurbishment which included the re-actioning of the entire organ. This project, required every thirty years in the life of a pipe organ, was completely funded through the generosity of

parishioners and a gift from the Helen Plummer Foundation. The Alston Memorial Organ is featured each summer during a recital on the Atlanta Summer Organ Festival series. Recent guests include internationally acclaimed concert organists Stephen Tharp, Yoonmi Lim, Renée Anne Louprette, The Chenault Duo, Bradley Hunter Welch, and our own Director of Music in collaboration with members of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.

### OUR BELL TOWER

The eight bells in St. Luke's bell tower were purchased from a church in England and are incorporated in our bell tower built in 2000. This extraordinary series of bells allows St. Luke's Guild of Change Ringers to regularly call us to worship and conduct concerts and peals.

### OUR PIANOS

St. Luke's is blessed to have three Steinway grand pianos on its campus: in our nave, in the Music Rehearsal room, and in Budd Hall. Through the generosity of the Helen Plummer Foundation, the Budd Hall instrument is scheduled for a complete rebuild in 2026.



### HARPSICHORD

The Harpsichord, handcrafted by the internationally acclaimed harpsichord builder, Richard Kingston, is used in recitals and as a continuo instrument for the annual Messiah Sing Along.





“Let the little  
children come  
to me, and  
do not hinder  
them; for to  
such belongs  
the kingdom  
of heaven.”  
MATTHEW 19:14

## CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILIES (CYF)

Children, youth, and families are central to the life and future of St. Luke's, and this part of parish life is experiencing renewed energy and growth. We understand faith formation as something that begins early, unfolds over time, and is nurtured through worship, music, learning, and joyful community life. Our parish is enriched by the presence, questions, creativity, and leadership of children and families, whose participation continues to shape our shared life together.

### CHILDREN & FAMILIES IN WORSHIP AND FORMATION

The 9 a.m. service at St. Luke's is especially welcoming to families and children. During the Holy Eucharist, children are invited to gather near the altar for the distribution of Communion, where they experience the sacrament up close. During the same service, children also gather for Children's Chapel, where they encounter Scripture through storytelling, wonder, prayer, and shared reflection. Formation continues beyond Sunday mornings through structured programming for children and youth, offering consistent rhythms of learning, relationship, and spiritual growth.







### **NURSERY**

St. Luke's nursery provides a safe, nurturing, and welcoming environment for our youngest parishioners, from infancy through age four, during Sunday morning worship and other parish gatherings. Care is offered by trained, paid staff, supported by dedicated parish volunteers who lovingly attend to children and their families. On average, 14 families entrust their children to the nursery each week. For many families, the nursery serves as a first point of connection into the life of the parish, offering both practical support and a tangible expression of St. Luke's commitment to hospitality, trust, and care.

### **CHORISTERS & MUSIC FORMATION**

St. Luke's is home to the largest chorister program in the Diocese of Atlanta. Children and youth participate in a robust, nationally recognized music ministry that forms them not only as musicians, but as worship leaders. Through the Royal School of Church Music curriculum, choristers learn

discipline, collaboration, and theological meaning, finding belonging within a multigenerational musical community that shapes faith through beauty and practice.

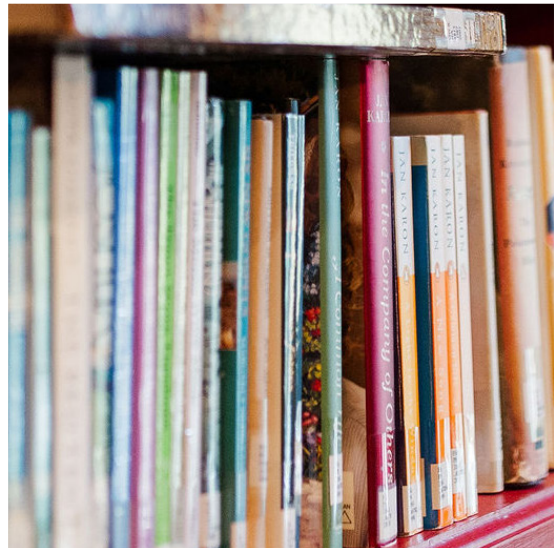
### **YOUTH LEADERSHIP & DIOCESAN ENGAGEMENT**

As they mature, St. Luke's youth are increasingly visible as leaders within the parish and across the Diocese of Atlanta. Youth regularly serve in worship as acolytes, lectors, greeters, and ushers, and several serve as youth representatives on parish committees, offering their voices and perspectives in the shared leadership of the church. Beyond the parish, our youth attend Camp Mikell together each summer and participate in diocesan programs such as New Beginnings and Happening, where they worship, serve, and learn alongside peers from across the diocese. Many take on leadership roles within these programs, deepening their sense of vocation, confidence, and connection to the wider Episcopal Church, and bringing that formation back into parish life.



Families in Parish Life. Families are woven into the fabric of parish life at St. Luke's. From seasonal celebrations and intergenerational gatherings to events, service projects, and neighborhood-based Porchlight Gatherings, parents and children alike find opportunities for connection, support, and shared joy. We strive to be a parish where families are known, welcomed, and supported - not only on Sunday mornings, but throughout the week and across the seasons of life.





## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.” Romans 12:2

St. Luke’s cherishes its rich model of Christian education - believing that in study we find questions; in questions we find doubt; in doubt we find faith; and in faith we become the hands and feet of God.

St. Luke’s offers educational programs for all ages, as well as group study

opportunities and partnerships with educators, community activists, and civic leaders from within St. Luke’s and throughout Atlanta.

We draw upon the tradition exemplified by former Theologian-in-Residence, the Rev. Dr. John Westerhoff, who served St. Luke’s from 1994 to 2005. People came from all over (not just Atlanta) to hear Dr. Westerhoff and to be nurtured and challenged as Christians in the modern age. St. Luke’s continues to aspire to the example set by Dr. Westerhoff and his vision of Christian formation that involves brain, body, and soul. Dr. Westerhoff often quoted an earlier theologian, “The opposite of faith is not doubt, but certainty.” This is still an ethic at St. Luke’s today.





FORMATION FOR  
CHILDREN AND YOUTH

There are 150 children and youth registered for this year’s program offerings. Participants move through curricula that invite their voices into our community and the world beyond our church. Children in grades K through 5 engage Bible stories through arts and crafts. Youth in Grades 6-7 explore the role of storytelling in the life of faith, and those in grades 8-12 study topics that mirror Adult Formation.

Last year our youth worked with a guest speaker to develop Kairos documents, short brainstorming pieces on the issues they felt strongly about. The students chose to engage with topics like the Israel-Palestine conflict, women’s rights, and embracing difficult conversations. A few of them were invited to share their experiences in a Sunday Forum. One student shared how eye-opening it was to just engage with the ways people have approached a topic rather than rushing to form an opinion.

On other aspects of their time at St Luke’s, one of our youths shared that engaging with us every Sunday fuels her creativity and helps her find beauty in her daily life. For another, the gift of

*“The opposite  
of faith is  
not doubt,  
but certainty.”*

REV. DR. JOHN H.  
WESTERHOFF, III

faith is the confidence that comes from knowing God is always working to make the world a better place.

Our youngest members gather during the 9 am service for Children’s Chapel. This is a space where children are invited to wonder about a reading from a Storybook Bible and co-create a 5-finger prayer of intercession. On a recent Sunday, the 20 participants began by singing “Prepare a Way for the Lord” and “Get ready he’s coming soon.” One child asked for prayers for a grandfather with cancer, another prayed that she would never have cavities, and a third asked us to pray for fast healing of the elbow she had scraped the previous week.

In the Spring youth in grade 9-12 are invited to prepare for Confirmation and a few graduating seniors preach on Youth Sunday. We partner with other parishes to offer Vacation Bible School in the summer.

ADULT FORMATION

The entry point to Adult Formation for many is the Forum between Sunday services. The Forum is a dynamic space where we tackle social issues, discuss topics of interest in the Episcopal church, and receive support in our prayer lives. Our Faith and Advocacy Network (FAN) hosts Forum discussions on topics like gun violence prevention, the housing



crisis, and ways we might support those recently released from prison. State Representative Stacey Abrams and State Senator Kim Jackson joined us for recent FAN Forums. Our clergy led a Forum on the history of race in the Episcopal Church and presented a recap of General Convention. On Sundays where we have a guest preacher, the Forum is often a conversation between our rector and the guest. Recent guests have included the Rev. Nadia Bolz Weber, the Rev. Wil Gafney, and the Rev. Canon Kelly Brown-Douglas. Other offerings have included an instructed Eucharist and a Forum on the use of the prayer book.

Our annual Formation offerings are anchored by class series, book studies, pilgrimages, and retreats. During Lent and Advent, we offer 2-3 short courses between services, and we typically have 30 participants in each course. Recent topics have included The Book of Mark, Mary’s Magnificat, The Nicene Creed, and the Nativity Narratives. Fifty parishioners meet in the parish hall on Wednesdays during Lent for Soup and Scripture, which is a light lunch followed by a short reflection.

Every year we engage both a parish book study and a joint book study with Ebenezer Baptist Church. Recent offerings included Rabbi Sharon Brous’ The Amen Effect and the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers’ The Church Cracked Open. Both book studies ended with an author book signing.

In June 2024, 25 parishioners and clergy travelled to the Camino de Santiago in Spain. Participants walked 70 miles over 6 days and came together each evening for prayer and reflection. After the trip one pilgrim offered “I have surely been transformed; we have surely been transformed, but we are not done yet. As the journey continues, we will keep walking, steadied by the love of God and of each other. What else could we possibly be made for?”

For several years we hosted a 1-day retreat at St. Luke’s based on Wil Gafney’s Womanist Midrash. The Daughters of the King host an annual Quiet Day for the whole parish.





Parishioners who want to make an ongoing commitment to a topic of interest can join a small group. Our small groups have walked through the Being With introduction to Christianity and Sacred Ground race materials. Our regular small group offerings include the Adult Inquirer's Class, a Contemplative Circle, Winding Road Discernment group and Education for Ministry (EfM).

Our offerings for the coming year will focus on navigating the interim period between rectors. In our Advent Devotional Embracing the Wilderness, a member of our parish said "Let's embrace – not resist – the wilderness, trusting that it is not a punishment but an invitation. For there, stripped of illusions we discover Emmanuel: God with us."

### **THE EBENEZER BAPTIST -ST. LUKE'S PARTNERSHIP**

One highly valued aspect of the adult formation program is the St. Luke's-Ebenezer Partnership. In the late 1990s, the churches committed to a long-term collaboration to mentor young, at-risk students from 2nd grade through high school and beyond. The successful project launched an effective working relationship between our churches which is still in its ascendancy. Since 2021, the partnership has convened a series of on-line virtual book studies that have built up the necessary trust to engage in difficult (and often avoided) conversations. The two churches are committed to working together on a variety of projects to build community and take on Atlanta's shortcomings.







“For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I with them.”  
MATTHEW 18:20



## PARISH LIFE

Parish life at St. Luke's is rooted in the belief that Christian community is formed through shared worship, hospitality, honest conversation, and joy. Our life together extends well beyond Sunday mornings, weaving relationships across generations and experiences and strengthening the bonds that sustain us as the Body of Christ.

Throughout the year, parish life ministries create space for connection, celebration, service, and reflection. These gatherings often become moments where faith is deepened, pastoral care is offered, the wider community is served, and friendships are formed—sometimes unexpectedly and always meaningfully.

## SHARED TRADITIONS & GATHERINGS

### KANUGA PARISH RETREAT

Each year, approximately 350 parishioners gather for a fall weekend at the Kanuga Conference and Retreat Center in Hendersonville, North Carolina. Centered on a shared theme and led by guest speakers, the retreat blends spiritual formation with recreation and fellowship. Cherished traditions—from mountain hikes and a polar plunge to costume parties and informal cabin gatherings—create lasting memories and deepen bonds across generations.





**MARDI GRAS & SHROVE TUESDAY**

St. Luke’s celebrates Shrove Tuesday with a lively Mardi Gras gathering that brings music, color, and joy to parish life. The evening offers a festive way to prepare together for the reflective season of Lent that begins the following day with Ash Wednesday worship.

**A CHURCH WITH OPEN GATES**

Located on Peachtree Street, St. Luke’s sits at the crossroads of city life. Each year, the parish opens its campus to the wider community during major Atlanta events, including Atlanta Streets Alive, Pride, and the Dragon Con parade. By offering hospitality, water, shade, and welcome, St. Luke’s lives into its identity as a public church where all are invited to rest, celebrate, and belong.

**ARCHIVES COMMITTEE**

This group of parishioners work to preserve and tell the story of St. Luke’s through video interviews with long-time members, preserving historically significant recordings of sermons and events, preserving artifacts and documents, and publishing “Stories from St. Luke’s Archives” in the monthly Shepherd’s Voice email.

*St. Luke’s is  
a parish that  
values joy,  
curiosity, and  
connection.*

**GROUPS FOR CONNECTION AND CONVERSATION**

**BRIDGE BUILDERS**

Founded in 2015, Bridge Builders fosters intentional, trust-based conversations among parishioners about race and systemic racism. Small groups meet regularly for candid dialogue rooted in mutual respect, prayer, and commitment. The ministry has also partnered with diocesan and community organizations, including the Absalom Jones Center for Racial Healing, to engage broader conversations across Atlanta.

**PARENTS OF LITTLE ONES (POLO)**

POLO builds community among families with young children, offering support, connection, and friendship during the early years of parenting.

**SOJOURNERS & ACT III**

St. Luke’s offers multiple pathways for older adults to connect, explore faith, and share wisdom. Sojourners (55+) and Act III (60+) create space for conversation, adventure, service, and reflection, honoring the vital role of elders in passing on faith and life experience to future generations.



**DAUGHTERS OF THE KING**

The Daughters of the King is a ministry of women committed to prayer, spiritual growth, and service. Through a shared Rule of Life, members pray daily for St. Luke’s and its ministries while supporting one another in faithful discipleship and quiet acts of service. The chapter is thriving, having grown significantly in recent years, and provides a steady foundation of prayer for the parish.

**PORCHLIGHT GATHERINGS**

Porchlight Gatherings are small, neighborhood-based groups that connect St. Luke’s parishioners who live near one another across Atlanta. Meeting on porches, around kitchen tables, and in local coffee shops, these gatherings offer space for fellowship, shared meals, prayer, conversation, and mutual support. Porchlight Gatherings help make a large parish feel more personal, deepening relationships, strengthening community, and extending the welcome of St. Luke’s into the neighborhoods where our members live.

**LIFE TOGETHER, IN ALL SEASONS**

Parish life at St. Luke’s also unfolds in countless informal ways: gathering on the lawn after worship, sharing meals in one another’s homes, playing kickball, hosting summer picnics, engaging in film and book discussions, and serving side by side in the community. These moments, planned and spontaneous alike, create a culture of belonging that welcomes newcomers and sustains long-time members.

St. Luke’s is a parish that values joy, curiosity, and connection. We trust that God continues to meet us in our life together, enriching our community and guiding all who walk through our doors







Above the altar  
at St. Luke's is  
a depiction of  
Jesus as the Good  
Shepherd. In  
response to Peter's  
declaration, "Yes,  
Lord, you know  
I love you."  
Jesus said, "Tend  
my sheep."  
JOHN 21:16

## PASTORAL CARE

Above the altar at St. Luke's is a depiction of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. In response to Peter's declaration, "Yes, Lord, you know I love you," Jesus replies, "Tend my sheep" (John 21:16). This call shapes our understanding of pastoral care and our life together as a parish.

At St. Luke's, pastoral care is God's love made visible through relationship. It is expressed through prayerful presence, deep listening, and shared responsibility for one another's well-being. We believe pastoral care is essential to keeping our

parish community connected, supported, and grounded in faith—especially during seasons of illness, grief, transition, or uncertainty.

The word pastoral comes from the Latin for "shepherd," and pastoral care at St. Luke's reflects that calling. Clergy and trained lay volunteers work together to pray for, visit, listen to, and care for parishioners who are sick, grieving, lonely, overwhelmed, or in need of healing. This care takes many forms, including home and hospital visits, bringing Holy Communion to the homebound, responding to prayer requests, and offering support to students, elders, caregivers, and families in transition.





COMMUNITY OF HOPE  
INTERNATIONAL

A cornerstone of pastoral care at St. Luke’s is our participation in Community of Hope International, a lay pastoral care ministry of the Episcopal Church grounded in Benedictine spirituality. Introduced to the congregation in 2018, Community of Hope prepares lay ministers to offer non-judgmental, prayerful presence to individuals and families experiencing transition.

At St. Luke’s, trained Community of Hope lay pastoral caregivers support the clergy through visits, prayer, and sustained accompaniment during times of crisis, illness, and grief. After completing fourteen weeks of formation, these ministers are commissioned to a vocation of pastoral care, healing prayer, and spiritual growth. They meet monthly for prayer, reflection, and ongoing formation, guided by the Benedictine values of balance, humility, and hospitality. Since its founding, the Community of Hope ministry at St. Luke’s has made more than 700 pastoral visits or contacts, offering quiet faithfulness during some of life’s most tender moments.

At St. Luke’s,  
pastoral care  
is God’s love  
made visible  
through  
relationship.

ADDITIONAL PASTORAL CARE  
MINISTRIES

St. Luke’s pastoral care is supported by a broad network of lay-led ministries, including:

**BAPTISM GUILD**, supporting families and clergy in baptismal preparation and worship

**CANTERBURY COURT MINISTRY**, providing worship and pastoral support to parishioners living at Canterbury Court, in partnership with the Episcopal chaplain and board

**EUCHARISTIC VISITORS**, licensed lay ministers who bring Holy Communion to homebound parishioners and those in care facilities

**FELLOWSHIP OF INTERCESSORS**, a dedicated group offering daily prayers for parishioners and others who request it

**FUNERAL GUILD**, providing hospitality and support to families during services of burial and remembrance

**FAMILY MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP**, offers a monthly support group for any adult with a loved one experiencing a serious mental health condition. The group is facilitated by a member of the clergy and a therapist.

**GOOD SAMARITAN CARE TEAM**, offering short-term practical support such as meals, transportation, and assistance after illness or surgery

**GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS**, providing gatherings for those mourning loss

**HEALING MINISTRY**, offering prayer with laying on of hands and anointing during Sunday worship

**WOMEN’S CANCER SUPPORT GROUP**, offering companionship and encouragement to women facing cancer or living in remission

**RESPITE CARE ATLANTA**, providing weekday enrichment programs for adults with cognitive challenges and respite for caregivers.

Together, these ministries reflect St. Luke’s conviction that pastoral care is not the work of clergy alone, but a shared expression of Christian love. Through presence, prayer, and relationship, St. Luke’s seeks to tend Christ’s flock with compassion, humility, and hope.







“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

MATTHEW 25:40

## COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

At St. Luke’s, community ministry and social justice is woven into our identity. Our parish has long understood that following Jesus means caring for the city around us and caring for one another, supporting parishioners in seasons of growth, challenge, and discernment, while standing with neighbors on the margins. In every direction, our ministries aim to cultivate deeper relationships, mutual transformation, and a more just and loving Atlanta.

Opportunities to serve span an enormous range of gifts and callings. Some are simple and tangible; offering food for Fill the Baskets, packing

sandwiches, or bringing coats for unhoused neighbors. Others invite longer companionship, like walking alongside a person experiencing homelessness, accompanying a family in Refugee Resettlement, or joining a parishioner in grief or illness through pastoral care ministries.

Across this network runs a clear thread: St. Luke’s nurtures the spiritual, emotional, and communal well-being of parishioners, while also being a voice and companion for those at the margins, responding to immediate needs and challenging the systems that create them. We highlight anchor ministries rooted on our campus, followed by our growing ecosystem of advocacy, service, pastoral care, and community-building ministries.





A CAMPUS OF MIRACLES

This cluster of ministries on and around our block has led many to call St. Luke’s campus a “Campus of Miracles”, a place where worship, advocacy, food, housing, education, and counseling meet in daily life.

CROSSROADS COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

Born in 1974 in our Parish Hall as the St. Luke’s Soup Kitchen, Crossroads has grown into one of Atlanta’s most valued and necessary hubs for neighbors experiencing homelessness. Its core mission remains rooted in dignity and stability.

Today, Crossroads engages with 5,500+ unique households serving 27,000 meals, providing 1,200 MARTA passes, assisting in securing 1,800 birth certificates and 1,500 state IDs, and enabling 16,000 mailroom visits. Just last year, Crossroads helped 120 households avoid eviction. With its program of active case management, Crossroads assisted guests with employment navigation and intensive housing assistance while providing a referral program to key health, housing, and civic partners around the city.

St. Luke’s nurtures spiritual and communal well-being while being a voice for those at the margins.

St. Luke’s connection to Crossroads and its on-campus location allow parishioners to serve meals, lead Bible studies, and offer produce they have cultivated in our Mustard Seed Garden, planted and maintained by St. Luke’s Parishioners. The Knitting Ministry is a multi-generational guild of parishioners who knits scarves for our neighbors at Crossroads.

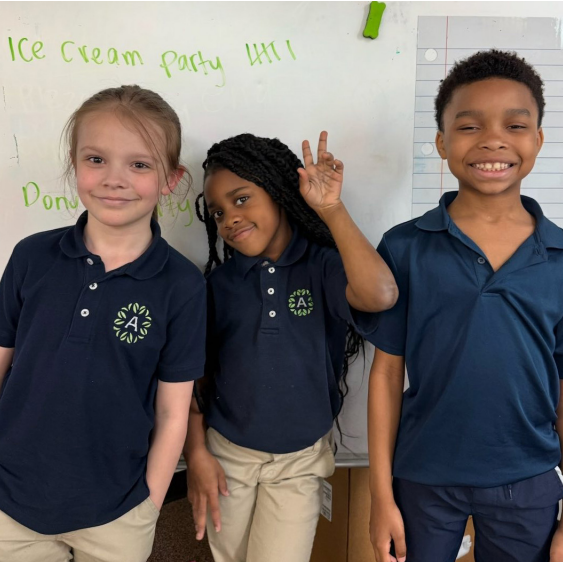
TRAINING AND COUNSELING CENTER AT ST. LUKE’S (TACC)

Founded by St. Luke’s clergy in 1976, TACC occupies the Edward Gay House on our campus and serves Atlanta as a center for accessible mental health care, especially to those on the margin. It serves a vital role in providing nationally recognized Clinical Pastoral Education for clergy and lay leaders.

Through partnerships with shelters, churches, hospitals, and schools, TACC remains a core expression of our belief that emotional and spiritual healing is central to Christian ministry. Our rector serves on the board, continuing a decades-long collaboration.

THE BOYCE L. ANSLEY SCHOOL

The Boyce L. Ansley School expresses St. Luke’s conviction that children who have experienced homelessness deserve both excellence and nurture. Founded on our



campus in 2018 with one pre-K class, it now serves over 80 students across multiple grade levels and has moved into its own dedicated building around the corner.

JUSTICE, ADVOCACY, AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

FAITH & ADVOCACY NETWORK (FAN)

St. Luke’s is committed to thoughtful, nonpartisan advocacy grounded in our baptismal call to “strive for justice and peace.” FAN provides the container for this work, a space where parishioners can learn, act, and speak faithfully on urgent public issues. Many of these efforts intersect with citywide and diocesan partners, including participation in capitol vigils, interfaith events, and broad-based coalitions.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PARTNERS

CUBA COMPANIONSHIP - ongoing relationship with San Pablo Iglesia Episcopal in Camagüey, including spiritual exchange and support for renovation projects.

DIGNITY INSIDE & OUT - An emerging ministry at St. Luke’s that partners with incarcerated persons and their families to empathetically and equitably live out the Gospel by empowering justice-impacted people.

REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT -

partnership with New American Pathways supporting families from Afghanistan, Myanmar, Syria, Cuba, and beyond.

EMMAUS HOUSE -

education, advocacy, and economic empowerment in Peoplestown.

HOLY COMFORTER -

monthly meals, as well as a hosting a Thanksgiving meal go its congregants and guests.

CHURCH OF THE COMMON

GROUND - worship, Bible study, and foot clinic support for unsheltered neighbors downtown.

MIDTOWN ASSISTANCE CENTER (MAC) -

crisis support for working Atlantans.

OUR HOUSE -

early childhood education and family support for families experiencing homelessness.





**PARTNERS IN CHANGE** - trains volunteer life coaches and pairs them with adults who are pursuing tangible goals for moving beyond difficult financial constraints or life challenges.

**THE PARK AT ST. LUKE'S** - 1.35-acre community greenspace adjacent to our campus that is stewarded in collaboration with civic partners.

In addition to ministries above, St. Luke's parishioners have identified gaps in the city's life and then helped build durable institutions to address them with founding roles in: Atlanta Community Food Bank (originating in the St. Luke's Community Kitchen), Atlanta Center for Self-Sufficiency, Canterbury Court (life-plan senior community founded with All Saints'), Communities In Schools (St. Luke's Street Academy), Frazer Center (formerly Cerebral Palsy Center). Hispanic Ministry/Good Samaritan Center (first Hispanic ministry in the Diocese of Atlanta, launched at St. Luke's), and The Study Hall.





“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

2 CORINTHIANS 9:7



## FINANCIAL HEALTH

St Luke's has been blessed with generous support and a strong financial foundation built on consistent contributions, a strong endowment and charitable giving trusts, and revenue-producing real estate. In the coming years, we'll need to continue to grow our congregation and our giving, stay disciplined in managing to budget, and develop plans for the best use of our substantial real estate assets to support the church's long term financial health.

As an endowed parish with seven acres of real estate in Downtown Atlanta, St. Luke's receives income from

diversified sources. It also enjoys close ties with affiliated, on-campus outreach organizations, many incubated by the church and actively supported by grants and in-kind contributions from the church. Our central location provides opportunities for congregational growth and development of the church's real estate assets. St Luke's next rector should have the strategic insight and collaborative skills to engage with lay leaders experienced in real estate and finance to direct these unique resources to support the mission of the church and its work in the city.

St. Luke's currently receives income from contributions, annual endowment distributions, and revenue-producing real estate.





ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

St. Luke’s gets 62% of its annual operating funds from pledges, gifts, and special offerings at Easter and Christmas. For 2025, pledges were \$2,254,025 from 423 households.

CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS

PREPARE YE THE WAY I AND II

Over the past seven years, St. Luke’s parishioners have provided additional support totaling \$5.5 million for interim expenses, program and growth (evangelism) investments, building maintenance projects requiring capital expenses, advanced streaming capabilities in the Nave and Parish Hall, and a major development of the Church’s South campus. The latter development supports a new children’s and youth playground, a stage for outdoor events, an outdoor patio area for education and fellowship, and a connection of our upper and lower campuses with an ADA accessible walkway.

ENDOWMENT FUNDS

As of September 30, 2025, St. Luke’s manages endowments and trusts totaling \$43 million. The funds provide annual income and support to St. Luke’s and its community of ministries. The funds

St. Luke’s owns seven acres along iconic Peachtree Street, in the path of growth between Midtown and Downtown Atlanta.

comprising St. Luke’s Endowment distribute more than \$700,000 annually and support 17% of the Church’s annual operating budget.

REVENUE-PRODUCING

REAL ESTATE

Nine percent of the church’s annual income comes from revenue-producing real estate. St. Luke’s has a seven-acre campus which, in addition to the sanctuary, church buildings, and community ministry buildings, includes 3.5 acres of surface parking lots and one retail building. The parking lots generate income from daily parking and rentals for movies and one-time events.

Consolidated financial statements, including audited Consolidated Statements of Financial Position, Activities, and Cash Flows are provided in the last section of this document.

OUTREACH MISSION THROUGH ON-CAMPUS MINISTRIES AND OUTREACH GRANTS

St. Luke’s has a highly evolved outreach strategy that extends its reach via affiliations with on-campus organizations and grant funding to agencies and individuals in need.



AFFILIATED, ON-CAMPUS MINISTRIES

St. Luke’s has a rich history of identifying and meeting needs in the Atlanta community. While many of the organizations fostered by St. Luke’s have moved away from its campus – and are independently funded – four outreach organizations are currently housed on or adjacent to the church’s campus: Crossroads Community Ministries, the Training and Counseling Center (TACC), the Boyce L. Ansley School, and Church of the Common Ground. The affiliated outreach ministries operate as an extension of the St. Luke’s community and, with combined budgets of more than \$5 million, carrying out many services that are often housed within parish budgets. These organizations are supported by the labor of St. Luke’s parishioners, draw on the energy and leadership of our congregation, and are aligned strategically with St. Luke’s outreach ministries vision. St. Luke’s

provides them with financial support of more than \$550,000 in rent, direct support expenses, and ministry support payments from our operating budget.

OUTREACH GRANTS

The McBurney-Fowlkes, Smith-Hawkins, and Marsh Funds support individual needs and institutional outreach organizations with \$400,000 in annual grants. Institutional grant committees evaluate requests and make recommendations to the Vestry. Individual grants are recommended by the clergy and approved by the Vestry. These funds are separate from the St. Luke’s Endowment and, while not providing direct operating support to St. Luke’s, allow the church to extend its outreach impact.

LOOKING FORWARD INVESTING IN GROWTH

PLEDGES AND CONTRIBUTIONS

While 2024-2025 giving saw a 15% rise on pledging, there is additional opportunity for growth in giving from the congregation. St. Luke’s pledging has remained remarkably strong in recent years, with total commitments now far higher than they were for much of the past few decades and the average pledge per household continuing to grow year-over-year.

Even during this current season without a rector, the 2026 campaign

	2016	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
PLEDGES	\$ 1,630,200	\$1,919,155	\$2,083,346	\$1,911,651	\$1,962,824	\$2,254,025
PLEDGING UNITS	442	430	408	448	410	423
AVERAGE PLEDGES	\$ 3680	\$4,463	\$5,106	\$4,267	\$4,787	\$5,329



with 403 pledges totaling \$2,197,069 (\$5,451 average pledge) so far is closing essentially in line with last year’s exceptional results, underscoring the depth of commitment and confidence parishioners have in the mission and future of St. Luke’s.

The combination of distance from the past Prepare Ye the Way capital campaigns to which our parishioners were providing almost \$800,000 a year and the arrival of a new rector should provide the conditions to continue to grow giving.

CONGREGATIONAL GROWTH

The Vestry and church leadership believe that St. Luke’s has the potential for significant growth. Supporting evidence includes:

- The explosion in housing, growing walkability, and the appeal of the Midtown and Downtown Atlanta areas (St. Luke’s is located on the northern end of Downtown Atlanta and is 3 blocks from Midtown. Potential development of the Stitch, a proposed park over the interstate 75/85 that would link Downtown and Midtown Atlanta. St. Luke’s property abuts the freeway, and St. Luke’s is the largest landholder in the area directly affected by the Stitch project.
- Prioritization of growth. St. Luke’s is actively invested in growth, having experienced 16% growth in pledging between our 2024 and 2025 pledging campaigns and having regularly participated in the Invite, Welcome, Connect program to generate church growth.



- Investment in Children, Youth, and Families ministries. Within the past two years, the church returned to clergy leadership of the children’s and youth program, with an ordained Episcopal priest in charge of the program and a seminarian over the youth program.

MANAGING TO BUDGET

Since the pandemic, the church’s operating deficits have averaged \$310,000 per year, financed with accumulated unrestricted reserves and support from the Prepare Ye the Way campaigns. In 2024, the Finance Committee developed a plan to eliminate these deficits over a 3-year period. The revenue growth goal identified by that plan was reached in 2025 and indications are that the 2026 budget will maintain that trajectory into the coming year.

We plan to work with our next rector to continue the emphasis on growth in giving from the current congregation and on expanding our membership. We will also need to carefully manage budgets to meet our targets.

ACTIVATING LONG-TERM REAL ESTATE ASSETS

St. Luke’s possesses significant valuable real estate—well beyond the needs of the church—that can be used to provide important, long-term income.

St. Luke’s owns approximately seven acres on iconic Peachtree Street and sits in the path of growth southward from Midtown Atlanta and northward from Downtown Atlanta. As the Peachtree Corridor continues to develop during the next 10 years, St. Luke’s has the potential to convert and better utilize our surface parking lots, which will allow us to expand the mission and ministry of the church.

	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
MEMBERS	1,899	1,892	1,919	1,965	2,044
HOUSEHOLDS	858	930	948	974	1,024
CHILDREN	751	740	733	718	742
BAPTISMS	9	11	16	19	18
DEATHS	16	16	17	17	11
CONFIRMATIONS	14	3	11	25	7
RECEPTIONS	9	5	7	2	7
MARRIAGES	7	5	5	5	7



“Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.”  
ROMANS 13:10



# WHO WE ARE IS WHERE WE ARE

St. Luke’s parishioners are drawn together in the belief that Jesus wants us to grapple with the challenges and opportunities embodied by our neighbors. St. Luke’s has embraced that responsibility, choosing to stay in the center of Atlanta, serve our neighbors, and fulfill our spiritual role in the community. As the City of Atlanta has turned its attention to revitalizing Downtown and economic

and civic resources are targeting our neighborhood, the time is right for St. Luke’s to rethink its options for using its real estate assets to the betterment of the community and the fulfillment of the Church’s mission. Our time is now, and government and civic leaders will continue to seek St. Luke’s guidance as the next chapter of Downtown Atlanta unfolds.

## WHERE WE ARE

St. Luke’s campus is in the northeastern section of Downtown, the historic city center of Atlanta. Downtown includes walkable streets, an authentic urban atmosphere, and excellent transit and highway access. It is home to Centennial Olympic Park, well-known attractions





such as the Georgia Aquarium and the National Center for Civil and Human Rights, and Georgia State University, a public research university of over 50,000 students lauded for its high graduation rate and excellent undergraduate teaching. Office buildings house Fortune 100 tenants as well as small businesses and influential nonprofits and foundations. Emory University Midtown Hospital and the newly built Winship Cancer Center occupy the block north of the church property. Downtown contains hospitality, convention, and sports and entertainment venues but also it is home to over 34,000 residents who are drawn to the parks, restaurants and entertainment, and eclectic mix of historic and new buildings. Nearly 200,000 people work in Downtown, and last year 57 million people visited for conventions, sporting events, concerts, and cultural attractions.

Following the recent pattern of Midtown Atlanta, its neighbor to the north, Downtown is experiencing a once-in-a-generation moment of growth. Over \$5.2 billion worth of new investment is planned or underway. Centennial Yards is transforming the railyard “Gulch” adjacent to State Farm Arena and Mercedes-Benz Stadium into a 50-acre mixed use district of new residences, hotels, shops, and entertainment venues.

*The proposed  
Stitch will be  
one of the most  
ambitious  
infrastructure  
projects in  
Atlanta’s history.*

Next door, the South Downtown project is revitalizing historic buildings into homes, offices, and restaurants.

Through an \$80 million foundation grant, Georgia State is investing over \$107 million to transform the campus and enhance connections to the fabric of Downtown. Two blocks east of the St. Luke’s campus, the Atlanta Housing Authority is engaging in a public-private partnership to redevelop the 19-acre site occupied by the dormant Civic Center into a mixed-use community that eventually will include about 1,500 mixed income residences. Taken together, the multifamily units planned to be built over the next five years will increase the Downtown housing stock by 43%.

Public infrastructure investments planned and underway will further transform Downtown. Atlanta was selected to host 8 FIFA World Cup matches Downtown in Summer 2026, including a semifinal. City government and private entities are investing hundreds of millions of dollars to showcase Downtown, paving streets and sidewalks, enhancing streetscapes, and improving entertainment and shopping locales. The proposed Stitch will be one of the most ambitious infrastructure projects in Atlanta’s history. The Downtown Connector will be capped between Ted Turner

Drive and Piedmont Avenue, creating 17 acres of new greenspace and parks and reconnecting neighborhoods divided by the Interstate. Phase I will be built adjacent to the southern boundary of the church property. While a recent withdrawal of committed federal funding has slowed the construction timeline, design work and planning continue apace.

**RELATIONSHIP TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD**

St. Luke’s owns and occupies a 7-acre block on both sides of Peachtree Street, a considerable portion of which is used for surface parking. We take seriously our responsibility to be good stewards of our property, embrace Downtown growth, and connect with our neighbors. We are under construction on the “Backyard” project, which will enhance our property for use by the congregation and create a welcoming space for church and community events. We have formed a Placemaking Committee of parishioners with expertise in real estate, land use, architecture, finance, and community development. The mission of the committee is to analyze and understand the infrastructure investments and development occurring around us and assist the Vestry and congregation in creating a long-term vision for development that supports the Church’s mission and enhances our contribution to our Downtown community. A consultant has been engaged to assist in the visioning process.





## GOVERNANCE

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other.” John 15:12-17

St. Luke’s Episcopal Church is a parish of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States and is under the jurisdiction of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta. Our governance reflects the Episcopal Church’s shared model of leadership, grounded in mutual accountability, transparency, and collaboration between clergy and lay leaders.

Under the canons of the Church, the Rector is entrusted with oversight of the spiritual life of the congregation, while the Vestry holds responsibility for the lay, legal, and fiduciary affairs of the parish. The Rector serves as principal preacher, teacher, and pastor, presides at meetings of the Vestry, and leads the clergy and staff in close partnership with lay leadership and parish ministries.







During this season of transition, St. Luke’s is served by the Rev. Michael White as Interim Rector. He provides steady pastoral leadership while working collaboratively with the Vestry, clergy, staff, and congregation to sustain the spiritual life of the parish and prepare for the calling of the next Rector. His leadership builds upon the strong foundation of transparent governance, open communication, and shared discernment that St. Luke’s values deeply.

Transparent governance and accountability are central to St. Luke’s. The Rector and Vestry engage in a structured annual review process to reflect on leadership, evaluate ministry effectiveness, and identify opportunities for growth. Financial reporting, budgeting, and significant decisions are communicated clearly and regularly to the congregation.

Lay leadership is essential to the vitality of St. Luke’s. The parish is supported by standing committees—including Congregational Development; Children, Youth, and Families;

Outreach; Finance; Stewardship; and Property—as well as time-limited task forces formed to address specific needs or questions. Vestry members serve as committee chairs or liaisons, ensuring strong communication and shared responsibility. Each committee articulates a mission statement and engages in annual reflection on its work.

Vestry members serve staggered three-year terms. Each year, a Vestry-appointed nominating committee presents a slate of candidates for election at the Annual Parish Meeting, while also honoring the Church’s provision for nomination by petition. This process reflects St. Luke’s commitment to openness, broad participation, and discerning the gifts of the whole community.

Together, clergy, vestry, staff, and lay leaders at St. Luke’s share a commitment to faithful stewardship, transparent decision-making, and collaborative leadership in service of God’s mission in the heart of Atlanta.

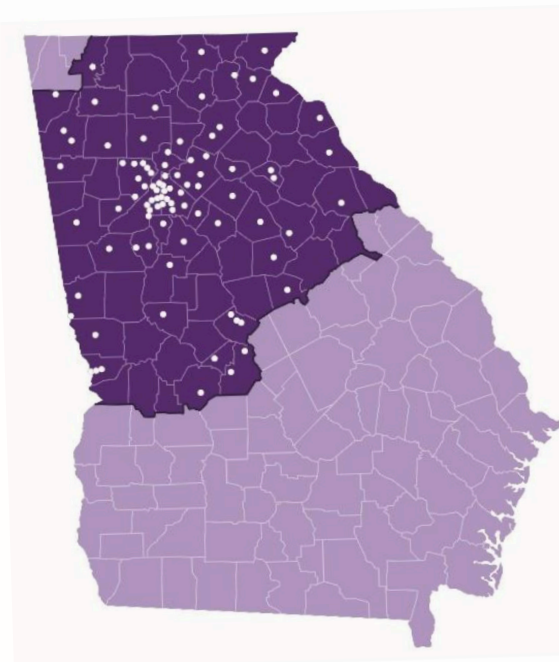
2025 VESTRY			
Deneta Sells, Senior Warden	Peter Kopp	Allison Stouffer Kopp	Darryl Holloman
Sharon Gay, Junior Warden	Lindsey Macon	Trenton Tunnell III	Julius Coles
	Pat Brumbaugh	John Floyd	Cynthia Cass
Lisa Boswell			

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE			
Deneta Sells, Senior Warden	Sharon Gay, Junior Warden	Russell Currey, Finance Chair	JP Fougrousse, Chancellor
	Brian Opsahl, Treasurer		Pat Brumbaugh, Clerk

CLERGY			
The Rev. Michael S. White, Interim Rector	The Rev. P. Kimberleigh Jordan, Ph.D., Minister for Formation, Community Ministries, & Creative Arts	The Rev. Brian A. Jemmott, Interim Associate Rector for Pastoral Care	The Rev. Pat Merchant, Priest Assisting
The Rev. Megan Swett, Associate Rector, Children, Youth, and Family Ministries		The Rev. Gabrielle Thomas, Ph.D., Theologian in Community	The Rev. Gene Paradise, Priest Assisting
			The Rev. Emilee Walker-Cornetta, Priest Assisting

STAFF			
Matthew Brown, Director of Music	Valerie Freer, Receptionist & Administrative Assistant	Michelle Jemmott, Director of Parish Administration	Amelia Simmons, Director of Communications
Rexi Buice, Sexton	Amanda Glover, Clergy Administrator	Taylor Irwin, Liturgy Assistant	Mark Simmons, Minister for Connection and Engagment
Tammy Burns, Sexton	Taylor Irwin, Liturgy Assistant	Greg McRae, Sexton Leader	Djalía Uwimana, Assistant Director of Children, Youth, & Families
Mignon Crawford, Director of Finance	Colleen Kingston, Associate Director of Children & Youth Choirs	Tori Moore, Director of Hospitality & Events	





## THE DIOCESE OF ATLANTA

The Diocese of Atlanta is a diverse and expansive faith community, with 120 communities focused on worshipping a living and loving God and working for a better world in the name of Jesus Christ. More than 50,000 members in 11 convocations spread across 75 1/2 counties in north and central Georgia make up the Diocese.

Our Diocesan Purpose Statement, adopted at Annual Council 2015, informs all aspects of our common life: “We challenge ourselves and the world to love like Jesus as we worship joyfully, serve compassionately, and grow spiritually.”

We are a Christian community blessed with vibrance, variety and vitality. Our diocesan bishop, The Right Rev. Robert C. Wright, was elected in June 2012 and ordained and consecrated on Oct. 13, 2012.

A map of Georgia state with different states AI-generated content may be incorrect. The Offices of the Bishop are at the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta. The Diocese has more than 200 clergy under Bishop Wright’s oversight, plus an abundant supply of lay leaders and ministers.

The Diocese of Atlanta was carved from the Diocese of Georgia in 1907. As part of The Episcopal Church, the Diocese is connected to the worldwide Anglican Communion of 70 million people in 38 provinces. The Diocese is also engaged in a special companion relationship with the Diocese of Cape Coast in West Africa.

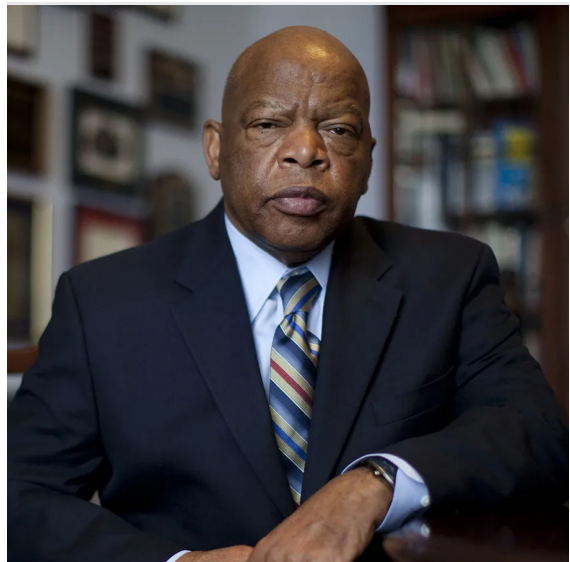
The Diocese of Atlanta’s website is [www.episcopalatlanta.org](http://www.episcopalatlanta.org).







# HOW OTHERS SEE US



“St. Luke’s Episcopal Church of Atlanta has been a beacon of hope, a voice for the poor, and a leader for social justice in Atlanta for decades. In addition to being among the first congregations to establish ministries to the homeless, St. Luke’s has always been willing to sit at the community table to better understand and live out what it means to be a ‘good neighbor.’ It has been my honor to work with clergy and lay leaders of St. Luke’s over the decades, and I look forward to continue the faith journey with the new Rector to be the living symbol of faith, hope and love and to ‘show mercy and seek justice’ for all of the people in our City.”

**THE LATE HON. JOHN LEWIS,  
UNITED STATES HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES DISTRICT 5-GA**



“The people of St. Luke’s possess unique resources for leadership in Atlanta and nationally. The work ahead for them is exciting because it requires that they harness those resources in service to a refreshed sense of purpose. They have done this before and it has made a difference for the Gospel!”

**THE RT. REV. ROBERT C. WRIGHT  
D.D., BISHOP OF ATLANTA**

“St. Luke’s is an Atlanta icon institution on many levels. First, it is recognized as an historical pillar of the community, both spiritually and religiously. Second, its leadership, both lay and religious, has, throughout its history, produced valuable members of Atlanta’s “civic” leadership. And third, St. Luke’s has frequently served as a “convener” to those trying to educate themselves and solve community issues. Leadership of the church is not only important to those who worship there, but to the entire community at large.”

**A.J. ROBINSON  
PRESIDENT AND CEO  
CENTRAL ATLANTA PROGRESS**





"St. Luke's Episcopal Church has for many decades stood at the crossroads of the spiritual, social and political life of Atlanta. The parish has seized upon this opportunity to lead by providing a place for the larger community to come together in fellowship, dialogue and action, and by consistently using its prophetic voice as an advocate for the disenfranchised, a bridge-builder for the divided and a healer of the downhearted. It is the birthplace of numerous leading nonprofit service providers, including the organization I lead (Crossroads Community Ministries), and remains committed to the success of these vital efforts. The members of St. Luke's provide a true representation of the great diversity of our community in ethnicity, social class, profession, age and sexual orientation, and provide a true example of unity in their singular focus on witnessing the love of Christ to all."

**TONY JOHNS - EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CROSSROADS COMMUNITY MINISTRIES**

"No other community of faith, indeed no other Atlanta community organization, comes close to St. Luke's history of compassion and leadership alleviating the effects of poverty and the barriers it erects to success. For over 45 years, St. Luke's has been the heart of our community's efforts to combat homelessness and poverty. St. Luke's Soup Kitchen, which grew into Crossroads Community Ministries, nurtured the seeds that grew into the Atlanta Community Food Bank, which began on the St. Luke's campus in donated space. Its parishioners incubated the creation of faith-based emergency shelters and feeding programs at other churches. It continues to host the compassionate Church of the Common Ground and supports the innovative Boyce Ansley School pre-k as it grows to become a free private school for homeless children. We would be a less caring community without St. Luke's. I hope and pray St. Luke's next Rector will embrace and support this wonderful history and culture."

**JACK HARDIN, SMITH, GAMBRELL & RUSSELL, LLP**  
**CHAIR - REGIONAL COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS AND HOMEFIRST ATLANTA**



"St. Luke's Episcopal Church has been a beacon of hope and community through the years. As a young man just beginning his ministry in 1975, St. Luke's courageously opened its doors not only to me but to the homeless, the educationally challenged, to those needing a safe place to share their personal stories, and to young seminary students looking for meaningful ministry – giving birth to such programs as the Community Kitchen, Cities in Schools, St. Luke's Training and Counseling Center, and the Atlanta Community Food Bank. Each one of these programs became a national model replicated throughout the country. It has encouraged & supported innovative clergy and lay leaders and is known as the church who cares for all those in need – serving body, heart, and soul to those who come for nurture, support, inspiration, and a strong sense of love and community. God bless St. Luke's".

**BILL BOLLING, CHAIRMAN & SENIOR ADVISOR, FOOD WELL ALLIANCE**



"St. Luke's Episcopal Church of Atlanta is a crown jewel, both in the faith community and within the greater Atlanta civic community. When it comes to working in the community to better the world, the clergy of St. Luke's are always at the table. It has been my great honor to partner with Rev. Matthews and Rev. Bacon on many interfaith concerns in the community. The outreach ministry at St. Luke's is widely respected, particularly when it comes to the homelessness ministry and the counseling center. We join our dear friends at St. Luke's in sharing their excitement as they prepare to welcome a new pastor. We, at The Temple, will welcome your next Rector with open arms and look forward to working with you as together we transform our community and our world."

**RABBI PETER S. BERG, SENIOR RABBI, THE TEMPLE**





"For about a dozen years, St. Luke's Episcopal Church and Ebenezer Baptist Church served some of the most vulnerable children of Atlanta in the development of their own chapter of the I Have a Dream (IHAD) project. Adopting 60 4th graders from the Bowen Homes housing projects, we agreed to walk with them from grade school through high- school graduation, and then to support them through post-secondary education. St. Luke's was a wonderful partner in this effort to empower 'the least of these.' We are grateful to St. Luke's for embodying the gospel message of truth, love, and justice toward the building of what Dr. King called 'the beloved community.'"

**THE REV. DR. RAPHAEL WARNOCK, SENIOR PASTOR OF HISTORIC EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH AND U.S. SENATOR FROM GEORGIA**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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