

# **St. Luke's Search Committee Responses**

## **Parish Community Profile Questions**

**Describe your liturgical style and practice. If your community provides more than one type of worship service, please describe all.**

St. Luke's liturgical style is traditional. We celebrate the Eucharist four times a week. Rite I is celebrated at the early Sunday service and the Monday evening service. Rite II is celebrated at the second Sunday service and the Thursday noon healing service.

Traditional music from the 1982 Hymnal; Wonder, Love, and Praise; and Gather is incorporated into the worship at the second Sunday service. Lay readers perform their duties of reading and chalice bearing at all four services. Acolytes serve at the second Sunday service. Clergy vest in albs and stoles at all services. We ring Sanctus bells at the Sunday services except during Lent, and we use incense during the Easter and Christmas services.

St. Luke's includes children in the Sunday morning services by inviting them up to the Chancel for the children's homily. Periodically we are blessed at the 10:30 service with music from The Joyful Noise Singers, our children's intermittent choir.

**How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?**

St. Luke's has an expectation that each member has at least one ministry within the church and one ministry outside the church. A recent parish survey reveals that 79% of the respondents support this expectation and that we average 3.5 ministries per member! We have sign-up sheets at our Annual Rally Day for our ministries and members are encouraged to join. The Vestry also asks individuals to help with activities such as our Outreach fundraisers.

There are 19 ministries within the church from Altar Guild to the Young Disciples program. Ministries outside the church include more than 5 core local non-profit agencies. Please check the St. Luke's Parish Profile for complete lists of our inside and outside the church ministries. In our survey a member said "The people of St. Luke's are known for their involvement in the community and making a difference personally. And that makes me very proud of my church."

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#### **Describe your worshipping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region?**

Regionally, our parish has provided clergy to celebrate the Eucharist for other parishes in the NE Region of the Diocese. For many years, our rector has provided his skills, leadership and advice as the Dean for this region. St Luke's has a long and wonderful history of being a proving ground for new curates and we currently are blessed to enjoy the contributions of a talented curate who graduated from seminary in 2015.

In the Oklahoma Diocese, St. Luke's has a member on the Diocesan Council, another on the Finance Committee and our rector served on Diocesan Council for six years. St. Luke's also has a member that has been the Chair Person of the Resolutions Committee for several years at the Diocesan Conventions. St. Luke's hosted the 2009 Oklahoma Diocesan Convention.

In the wider church, St. Luke's annually sponsors the education of 5 to 6 Ugandan orphans and has sewn dresses for young Ugandan school girls.

#### **How do you engage in pastoral care for those beyond your worshipping community?**

Many members in our parish are involved in volunteering for community help agencies. We read with school children, serve lunches at a soup kitchen, provide care for children of the working poor, provide food and shelter for homeless families, and provide school supplies for needy children. All these situations provide opportunities to reach out as Jesus would to those needing love, care and support.

Two of our deacons serve as volunteer chaplains at Jane Phillips Medical Center. Our rector provides Holy Eucharist monthly and a quarterly Memorial Service at a local Senior Retirement Community. He also has provided funerals for community leaders without churches. We have provided Community Communion services at critical times such as 9/11 and the invasion of Iraq. Our clergy and laity have provided leadership and many volunteers for the Bridges Out of Poverty and Family Promise programs.

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**Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years.**

St. Luke's is a charter member of Family Promise of Washington County in Bartlesville, OK, which is affiliated with the national Family Promise organization. Family Promise primarily serves families with children who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, with the mission of "helping homeless and low-income families achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response."

St. Luke's hosted the first families in the local program in September 2015. Families stay overnight in local churches on a weekly rotation where they are fed, loved and encouraged. Over 3 dozen parishioners are involved in hosting Family Promise families. Many families have successfully completed the program and are now living independently in their own homes. Seeing families move from homelessness to living independently in their own homes is very rewarding. We are privileged to let the Christ in us meet the Christ in them!

**How are you preparing yourselves for the church of the future?**

Our parish is participating in the National Church Development program with the encouragement of the Diocese of Oklahoma and received a report of being a very healthy parish.

We are presently working to address our weakness – lack of passionate spirituality. We have a tradition of quiet evangelism in which we hope and pray others will be attracted merely by our example and not by our deliberate effort. We recognize the need to expand our membership, but we have not been very intentional about growing our parish family. However, we are ready to begin and a recent sermon on this topic by our curate has been very helpful on where to begin.

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**What is your practice of stewardship and how does it shape the life of your worshipping community?**

St. Luke's Stewardship Committee has an annual pledge campaign. Letters are sent to each parishioner explaining our financial needs and programs that we plan to fund. We ask parishioners to consider prayerfully increasing their pledge for us to meet the financial needs of the church. We make announcements during church services and also ask parishioners to stand and tell what the church means to them. Their stories are both inspiring and spiritual. Our pledges have increased 3.5% annually over the past few years.

In addition, the church has always come through when there is a special need. In 2015 we raised over \$70,000 in less than two weeks to fund a Curate for a two year term! In the last few years we raised over \$20,000 to refinish our beautiful terrazzo floors in the Narthex, Nave and Sanctuary. We also raised over \$40,000 for repairs to our roof and for tuck pointing the building.

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