

SAINT LUKE  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

MINISTRIES AND  
ORGANIZATIONS



INFORMATION  
BOOKLET

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## SACRAMENTS

### **BAPTISM**

For infants it is celebrated within the parish community at Sunday Masses. The Sacrament of Baptism presumes that parents are registered and participating parish members. The actual ceremony is scheduled upon completion of preparation process for parents that provide an opportunity to reflect on the meaning, commitment and practical aspects of the baptism of their child. Preparation sessions are held the third Sunday of each month following the 11AM Mass. Leadership is provided by the baptismal preparation team, which includes the pastor. It is preferred that the preparation session take place during the period of pregnancy. Baptism for adults is received through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults program. Reception of this sacrament through RCIA is an on-going process based on pastoral readiness, which includes a thorough period of parish-based catechesis.

### **CONFIRMATION**

The sacrament is received through Faith Formation/Youth Ministry process that encompasses at least two (2) years of continuous faith formation. According to updated diocesan guidelines, candidacy can be declared during early adolescence. Adults are invited to Confirmation through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

### **EUCHARIST**

First Communion is received through a sacramental preparation process for youngsters and their families. Two years of preparation is required by diocesan guidelines. Candidates must be 7 years of age. Adults are invited to Eucharist through the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA).

### **MARRIAGE**

Parish guidelines are available upon request. Ideally, our preparation requires a six-month sequence of events that includes preparatory sessions, counseling by a trained marriage therapist, and participation in a retreat called Engaged Encounter that lead up to marriage at Saint Luke Church.

### **RECONCILIATION**

Celebrated from 4:15-4:45PM on Saturday afternoon or whenever desired by appointment. Communal Services are scheduled during Advent and Lent.

### **ANOINTING OF THE SICK**

Celebrated at parish, home or hospital when notified and requested by candidate. There are seasonal celebration of the Communal Rite for large number of parish members at a Eucharist, particularly as part of HOPE ministry and in support of our Young at Heart support group. Recently, candidates have come to Church prior to hospitalization, which has enabled the parish to pray with candidates in a communal setting while preparing them for surgery or imminent hospitalization.



## EDUCATION

### **ADULT EDUCATION**

Faith Formation is an on-going formation for all ages. Each person is responsible to continue to develop their knowledge and understanding of the faith we share. Therefore, Faith Formation includes the following adult programs. *Rite of Initiation for Adults (RCIA)*, *Small Faith Communities (RENEW)*, *Bible Study*, *Why Catholic*, *Catholic Book Club*, a variety of lay ministry training sessions and occasional adult programs on specific topics.

### **BIBLE STUDY**

Meets weekly to reflect on the coming week's readings and to study a particular book of the bible.

### **SMALL CHRISTIAN FAITH COMMUNITIES/RENEW**

RENEW is a spiritual renewal process to help parishioners develop a closer relationship with Christ, to make an adult commitment to Jesus as central in their lives and to open them to the power of the Holy Spirit so that they become more authentic witnesses. Since RENEW invites the total parish, including inactive members, to participate together, since it is renewal encouraged by the parish priest and organized by parish leaders, since all phases of RENEW are experienced in the parish, it is more than renewal of individual persons. It is parish renewal and creates a spiritual climate throughout the parish community in the development of small Christian communities.

### **CATHOLIC BOOK CLUB**

A book club with a Catholic focus provides a wonderful forum in which to discuss issues and books of particular interest to Catholics. Meets the last Tuesday of each month.

### **LAY MINISTRY**

A diocesan program for training lay persons for parish ministry. It includes courses in Christology, Theology, Liturgy, Prayer, Church History, Social Ministry and Vatican II, scheduled on an annual academic cycle. Sessions held regionally are open to anyone who qualifies for admission.

### **RITE OF INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA)**

A program for those seeking to learn more about their faith and about the Catholic Church for possible initiation into our Church. Meets weekly September through May. Leadership is provided by a broad-based catechetical team for candidates and sponsors alike.

### **PLAYSCHOOL**

St. Luke's Playschool provides two, three and four-year old children with age appropriate academic skills in an environment that teaches the love of Jesus Christ through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, within a loving, caring, uniquely Catholic environment.



## EDUCATION (CONT.)

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (1 - 5<sup>th</sup> Grades)**

The heart of our Faith Formation program is the Sunday Eucharist. Families who come together to worship, and listen to the homily and discuss it, have made a good beginning for the week's religious education at home. Regularly scheduled classes and a varied set of activities at the parish support the family and create fellowship and community.

### **YOUTH MINISTRY - GRADES 6-12**

Our young teens (grades 6-12) have the opportunity to meet people their own age, develop friendships and become an active part of the Church community. Throughout the year, the group becomes involved in a variety of social activities and service projects. Our students meet every Monday night for Faith Formation followed by, Praise and Worship, "Breakouts" and end the evening with social/fellowship time.

Confirmation (9th grade) is received through participating in the Youth Ministry program.

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION**

In order to participate, the family is expected to be registered and active members of Saint Luke Church, faithful to regular participation at Sunday Eucharist. Normally registration for children's Faith Formation and Youth Ministry will take place in the Spring. There is a late summer registration for new parish members only. Those who expect to participate must register during that time and participate in an orientation session.



## WORSHIP & SPIRITUAL LIFE

### ENVIRONMENT

Provides flowers and other seasonal decorations around the altar and in the worship and gathering areas as needed for the liturgy and for special occasions. The purpose is to create a hospitable environment for all of parish life, not merely to decorate the altar. Parish members are encouraged to provide offerings for flowers to grace the altar area.

### LITURGY OF THE WORD FOR CHILDREN - PRESCHOOL (ages 3-5)

Children ages 3 - 5 participate in a bible story telling time during the 11:00AM Mass on Sundays. Parents volunteer to lead this 30-40 minute time during Mass. Basic prayers, songs and crafts are also part of this bible time. After this time children join their parents in the main assembly.

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD (ages 6-11)

Children ages 6-11 are called forth from the main assembly right after the opening prayer to their own Liturgy of the Word in the Family Life Center to reflect on the Sunday Scriptures. This is done in a way that enables them to hear God's Word as it relates to their life experience, developmental stages and innate spirituality. The children return to the main assembly right after the Homily.

### LITURGICAL MINISTERS

This group consists of the Altar Servers, Mass Coordinators, Lectors, Ministers of Communion, Liturgy Planning, Music Director and other ministers.

- The *Altar Servers* consist of boys and girls in 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade who participate in the liturgy. Training is provided. Altar Servers normally serve at Mass about once a month.
- The *Mass Coordinators* are responsible for details, assignments and behind the scene particulars prior to, during and after Mass in order to enable Mass to be an effective celebration. This ministry combines hospitality, care and coordination, along with the traditional role of usher.
- The *Lectors* proclaim the "Word of God" through readings taken from the Old and New Testament, training, workbooks, enrichment and scheduling are all components of this vital ministry.
- The *Ministers of Communion* are responsible for the distribution of Communion at Mass. Enrichment, training and overall coordination are the vital parts of this ministry.
- The *Music Director* is a parish staff person who provides the interconnection of contemporary musical groups (Bethany, Ascension, and Sojourn), adult and children's choirs, cantors and musicians. The director also takes care of the scheduling of musicians, overall issues that create a life-giving music program. A special music committee meets quarterly to enhance coordination of the varied musical ministries and overall parish liturgical life.



## OUTREACH

### **CAR CARE**

Volunteers will provide minor vehicle maintenance such as oil change, lube, fluid level inspection, tire pressure check, belts, hoses, etc. to households on a fixed income or single parents. This ministry is offered quarterly.

### **BLOOD DRIVE/RED CROSS**

Five times a year blood drive is held at Saint Luke and Philadelphia Presbyterian Church and is recognized as among the most successful mobile unit drives in the area by the local Red Cross.

### **FRIENDSHIP TRAYS**

The local version of "Meals on Wheels." Food trays delivered to local shut-ins on a daily basis. Drivers are always needed to assist on regular assignments.

### **GIVING TREE**

Annual holiday gift-giving in coordination with Catholic Social Services and other service agencies.

### **HUNGER**

Parish participates in a variety of hunger related efforts.

- CROP WALK - Annual trek through the streets of Charlotte is among the largest public witnesses to alleviating hunger from local to world-wide levels.
- SUNDAY FOOD OFFERING - Each week church families are encouraged to bring a dry food item to enhance the offering at the altar and remind us of the needy. Food supplied to Catholic Social Services and Loaves and Fishes.

### **HOMELESS SHELTER**

Every third Sunday of the month, volunteers gather at the Uptown Men's Homeless Shelter to prepare and serve over 250 men. Volunteers are needed to make desserts which can be dropped off at the church on the before Mass on the Sunday which Saint Luke is serving. Cooks and servers for actual meal always needed and appreciated.

### **PAX CHRISTI**

A local chapter of the National Catholic Peace Movement. Meets regularly to pray, educate and act for justice and peace.



## OUTREACH (CONT.)

### ROOM IN THE INN

Regularly, during the months of December through March, Saint Luke provides a “home cooked” meal and a place for area homeless to spend the night in a warm place. Volunteers are needed to pick up the guests, cook and serve the meal, spend the night and bring the guests back to Urban Ministry uptown the next morning.

### THOMASBORO ELEMENTARY

This ministry provides gifts and other items to students at Thomasboro Elementary. These children come from neighborhoods that have the highest poverty rate and the highest crime rate in the city. Some of the children reside in shelters and run down apartment complexes exposed to gangs on a regular basis. St. Luke collects school supplies, gifts at Christmas and goodie bags at Halloween and Valentine’s Day.

### TITHING COMMITTEE/WE CARE

The group was formed with a Christian vision to return to the larger community the many blessings that we as a Church have received. Priorities are set in descending order: community, national and international concerns.. This committee serves as a coordinated voice of the Finance and Outreach Committees to provide the stewardship to the local and national causes that the parish deems worthy of support. Funded by a “tithe” (7.5%) of the Sunday offering, this fund serves as a haven for our presence throughout the community at large. Meets quarterly.



## COMMUNITY BUILDING

### **BOY SCOUTS/CUB SCOUTS**

Boy Scout Troop 198/Cub Pack 198 meets weekly at the church. Through outdoor education and advancement programs, our scouting program strives to provide opportunities for personal development and to teach the ideal of the scouting movement. Adult volunteers are welcome.

### **CHILD CARE/NURSERY**

Child Care services are provided during the Sunday morning Masses and may be made available during special service such as Holy Days (these would be announced in the bulletin). The nursery is designed for children ages 6 months through pre-school. This service is a cooperative venture whereby each parent rotates to provide the childcare.

### **CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP**

Caregivers to spouses and/or other family members meet for "caring and sharing" with others who are traveling the same road. Meets every other Tuesday morning and every other Wednesday evening

### **FAMILY/INDIVIDUAL COUNSELING**

A skilled and professional counselor is provided through arrangement with Catholic Social Services office. Appointments are available on Thursdays here at St. Luke.

### **HOPE (Helping Other People Endure)/Pastoral Care Committee**

To give compassionate caring for the sick, the aging, the homebound, and the bereaved of Saint Luke Church. It also provides a caring response at time of death and funerals.

### **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

The Knights of Columbus is a Catholic, family, fraternal and service organization. The Knights are involved in parish work and charitable activities relative to Church, Community, Council, Family and Youth programs. Membership is open to all Catholic men over 18 years of age.

### **MOMS (Mothers of Mercy & Strength)**

Mothers of all backgrounds are invited to join the St. Luke MOM'S Group. Our beliefs and attitudes are centered on the Catholic Faith. We, as moms, come to this group for spiritual support and guidance on living our daily lives according to God's plan. The focus of this group involves prayer, religious education through book study and testimonials, and fellowship with other moms. Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month.



## COMMUNITY BUILDING (CONT.)

### **STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE**

Stewardship is based on the spiritual principles of the Old Testament and the teachings of Jesus and where it has been practiced, lives have been changed. Stewardship is a way of life, a way of thanking God for all His blessings by returning a portion of the time, talent and treasure given to us. Stewardship involves intentional, planned and proportionate giving of our time, talent and treasure. It is the purpose of the Stewardship Committee to create a greater understanding of this biblical principle and actively apply it into the parish. This group coordinates an annual Stewardship Sunday and insures volunteers connected with the appropriate committees and individuals. Meets every other month or more frequently as needed.

### **YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY**

St. Luke Young Adult Ministry (YAM) is a ministry at St. Luke Catholic Church that aims to connect single and married young adults through prayer, learning, sharing, support, and mission. St. Luke YAM provides opportunities for young adults to form small faith communities, Bible study groups, participate in service opportunities within the St. Luke community and beyond, and celebrate our common faith with food, fun, and fellowship.

### **YOUNG AT HEART**

This group of seniors meets the third Thursday of each month for Mass followed by a social. Day trips are scheduled throughout the year, which are very popular with the group. This group is also very active in charity work within the Saint Luke Community and is guided by a coordinating committee.

### **WELCOME COMMITTEE**

Saint Luke has been noted as a warm spirit of welcome and hospitality. With the help of volunteers who welcome newcomers at mass by answering any questions, handing out “newcomer” packets or “heading” them in the right direction, we can continue to be a “warm spirit of welcome.” Monthly gatherings provides more intentional orientation to parish life.



## ADMINISTRATION

### FACILITIES

- *Facilities/Maintenance Committee* is a group of volunteers who assess the need for improvement or repairs within the church and around the church grounds. They will also schedule Parish Clean Up days throughout the year.
- *Highway Clean Up* works in agreement with the State of North Carolina to care for about a mile of highway that runs by our property. About 4 times a year, a parish group spends about 90 minutes on highway beautification.
- *Landscape* on a as needed basis workdays are scheduled to help with the up keep of the grounds and the beautification of the church property. Volunteers are needed on a weekly basis to water and weed the circle and surrounding area of the front entrance of the Church.

## FINANCE COUNCIL

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The Finance Council is a consultative body of laypersons established to advise the pastor on matters pertaining to the financial affairs of the parish. In fulfilling its responsibilities, the Finance Council is directed by the values of the Gospel as well as by good business practices. Meets monthly.

### FUND RAISING

The Fund Raising Committee serves as a clearinghouse in the coordination, scheduling and review of all parish fund raising events.



## SERVANT LEADERSHIP TEAM (SLT)

### SERVANT LEADERSHIP TEAM (SLT)

Saint Luke's leadership model is to serve each other and our neighbor as Jesus taught us.

Mission Statement: "The Servant Leadership Team, through discernment of God's Will, Parish needs and responsibilities, will guide and enable the community to live a conscious and active Christ-centered life."

### SLT GOALS

- To discover the Needs of the parish
- To discern and plan for the future direction of the parish
- To cultivate a spirit of Unity and Dynamic Growth within the SLT
- To cultivate an open, collaborative relationship with the pastor and staff
- To coordinate and support the parish commissions in the Implementation of their missions
- To assist and enable the parish to be and become a living, dynamic community of Faith
- To ensure that the parishioners are aware of the nature, purpose and mission of the SLT

SLT consists of twelve members asked to serve 3-year terms, with one third of a team selected each year. The intention is to have a diverse parish representation through a multi-step process.

The SLT welcome your questions, comments and concerns.



## A BRIEF HISTORY

On the Feast of St. Luke, 1987 a handful of people gathered in the movie theater of Matthews Festival to initiate a new parish named for the illustrious physician, Luke. Father Joe Mulligan, our founding pastor, in his first homily, called on his small flock to honor their patron saint by becoming a “healing presence in the community.” From the beginning, a portion of our weekly offering was to be set aside for the needs of the poor. So began this parish community, committed to the ministry of justice, peace and compassion for the poor and suffering, committed to making a difference in the larger community around us.

Throughout that Fall season we continued to meet each Sunday at the movie theater. This required bringing absolutely everything we needed back and forth for the celebration. By the time Sunday Liturgy was over, we could smell the popcorn being prepared for the early matinee.

By December Father Joe had found what was to be our first real parish home in a storefront in a shopping plaza called MINT HILL FESTIVAL. It was located between Eckerd Drugs and Movie Mania (currently a Ladies Fitness Center.) After necessary renovations we were able to celebrate Christmas in our new home. For the next seven years we worshipped, worked, played and celebrated in this storefront Church. The intimacy of the setting helped us develop a strong sense of community, which we continue to foster in our larger home. From the beginning, our parish was formed in a spirit of mutuality and collaboration, with monthly town meetings to give all who wished a voice in this developing parish.

Through the hard work and generosity of our parishioners we were finally able to build a permanent home on fifteen acres which the Diocese had for this purpose. Our present building was completed and ready for the celebration of the Feast of St. Luke in 1994. Since then we have added the administration and education wings to the original building.

As new members join us here at St. Luke, we urge you to get involved and continue to build on the wonderful spirit with which we have begun so that St. Luke parish may continue to “be a healing presence” in the community around us.

~Sr. Veronica Grover





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