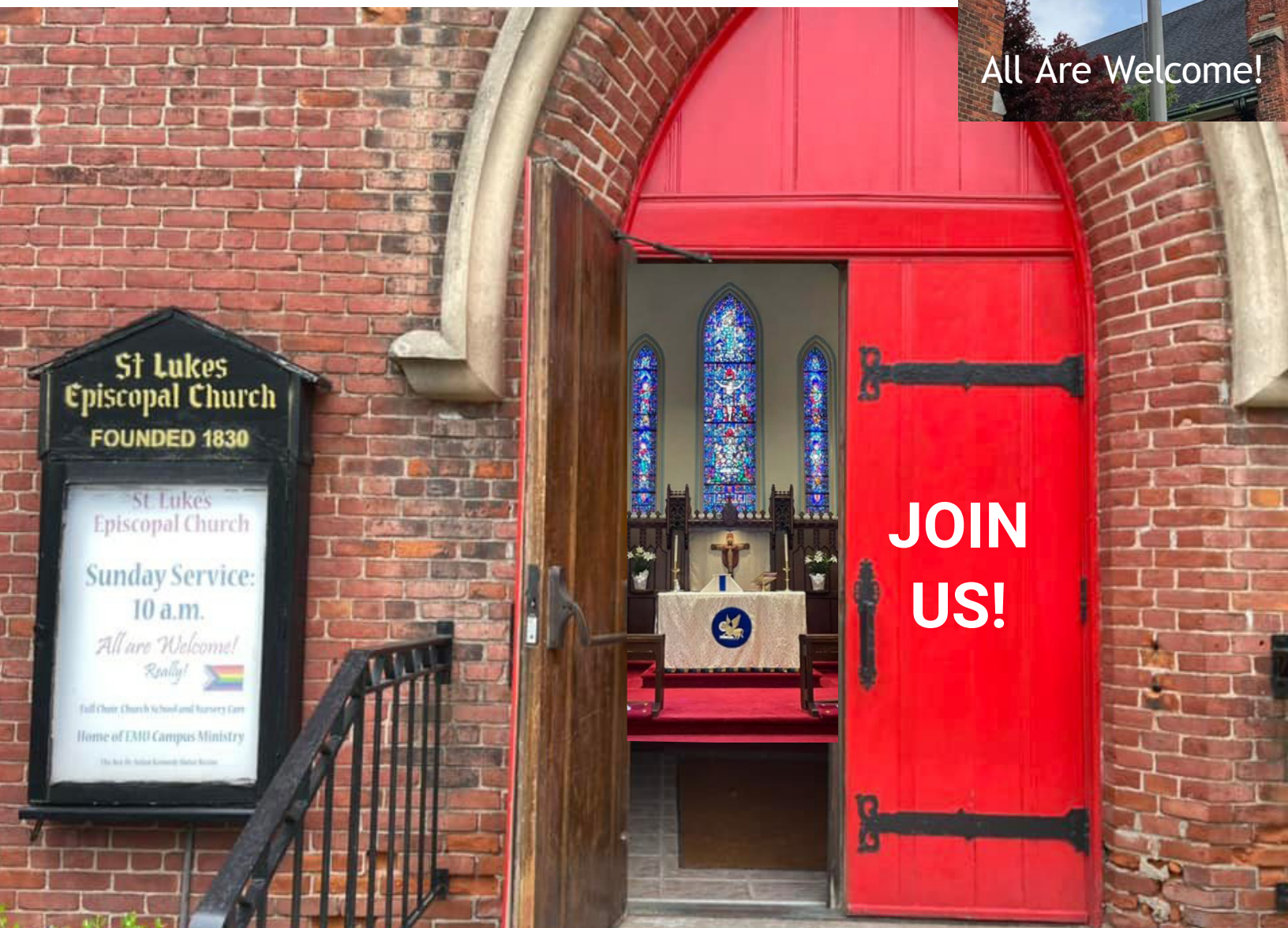




# St. Luke's Episcopal Church



All Are Welcome!



JOIN  
US!



# We are:

- A faithful community committed to following the path of Jesus Christ in service to others.
- Excited for new leadership, and the changes that will come with it.
- Eager to help lead in established and new ways.
- People with a deep and abiding love for the congregation.
- Passionate about social justice and equity.
- Yearning to be good neighbors to the Ypsilanti community as we live out our faith in service to others.
- A broad church with individuals from all walks of life who are strengthened and inspired by the compelling worship service at St. Luke's.

"We are continuing to change and be involved beyond our walls.

Whether our doors are open or closed, what I have seen most can be summed up in one word: support"

—Allison Echlin,  
Senior Warden

# We are looking for:

- A joyful leader who will continue our tradition of meaningful and inclusive worship which strengthens us to do good in the world.
- A caring individual who will support our efforts in social justice and equity.
- Someone to join in our heartfelt rallying cry: All Are Welcome!
- A compassionate person ready to provide pastoral care, while empowering the congregation to do the same.
- An individual who wants to collaborate with members of the congregation as well as the community.
- A creative individual with innovative ideas.
- Someone who combines a Biblical, historical perspective with human-focused storytelling in sermons.

"Almighty and everlasting God, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift: Send down upon our bishops, and other clergy, and upon the congregations committed to their charge, the healthful Spirit of thy grace."

—BCP pg. 816

# The People

## Our worshipping community

St. Luke's is a place that fosters community. Through our neighborhood outreach activities, coffee hour, and committee meetings, members have many opportunities to forge bonds with diverse congregants united in their love for Jesus Christ.

The members who make up the congregation of St. Luke's Ypsi include those who were baptized as children and have been coming for 60+ years as well as young families who joined our community more recently.

We have a church school where the children enjoy a variety of activities and projects. When they return from Sunday School during the announcements, it is often with a happy and boisterous march. Children are also welcome to stay in church.

One of our long-term members, Eric Braun, is now an ordained priest. The Rev. Braun is not the first person that St. Luke's has sponsored, but he is the only individual who heard the call while an active member of the congregation. He is now a hospital chaplain.

The vestry and priest enjoy a positive working relationship with mutual respect. The congregation has a high level of trust in its vestry. Because most long-term members have been vestry members themselves, the congregants have a good understanding of what lay and clerical leaders can and cannot do. Our leaders don't require unanimous consent to move ahead on new initiatives, but they do take into account all viewpoints, and proceed after prayerful consideration of what is best.

We have a devoted and skilled group of members who manage things like audits and parochial reports, and many members with strong institutional memory who can share their knowledge of the congregation across the years with our new rector.

St. Luke's is a place where people are constantly learning, growing, and experimenting. Nobody expects their priest to be perfect, just as nobody else in the congregation is perfect. We aim to have grace for one another's mistakes and to learn from our experiments and mishaps.



2017 Christmas Pageant

# How We Worship

The worship at St. Luke's is traditional yet flexible. We follow the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, sampling from Rite I and Rite II services, and employing a variety of prayers. At times, we supplement this with other prayers and hymns to fully embrace the diversity of our congregation. The priest takes the lead in planning worship, and may at times confer with long-time members or the vestry. Music is an important part of our services.

Above all, worship at St. Luke's is joyous and participatory. We seek to involve as many people as possible as lectors, acolytes, and singers. Although most congregants remain in the pews, we all lift our voices to praise the Lord.



"We all lift our voices to praise the Lord."

—John McCurdy, Vestry member, Acolyte



"If you put a goal in front of them, they find a way to meet it. I'm amazed at what a parish this size can accomplish."

—The Rev. Eric Braun, recently ordained  
longtime member of St. Luke's Ypsi

## Staff and Finances

Paid Staff:

- Rector (full time)
- Music Director (part time)
- Office Administrator (part time)
- Sexton (part time)
- Accountant (part time)
- Sunday School Director (part time)

We have managed to balance the budget (total operating budget is approx. \$185K) over the past several years, but looking ahead, we do need to increase revenue. Our budget is bolstered by income from those who rent our space; approx. 14% of our income comes from the building tenants. We have an endowment fund to help in times of extreme need. In 2021 and 2022, 77% of our income came from pledges and general donations, and 55-57% went to salaries. We have been approved for a curacy grant, which would pay a portion of the salary of a recent seminary graduate (within the past three years).

# Inreach

The members of St. Luke's Church value the meaningful Sunday Service and the personal relationships they have forged with each other over years. They care for each other in a variety of ways, and form meaningful relationships through shared activities.

There is a strong desire to find additional ways to reach our members who are homebound, including offering church services via zoom, and establishing a visiting ministry. We feel the Spirit when caring for others, as they are our spiritual family.

*"Everyone is encourage to participate in any way that they feel comfortable*

*—Janis Sargent, Altar Guild, Former long-time  
Nursery Leader, Lifelong member*

These are the primary activities at St. Luke's Ypsi in recent times:

Prayer Chain

Altar Guild

Building Committee

Poetry Group

Parish activities over the past several years:

- Coffee hour
- Lenten dinners and discussions
- Bible Studies
- Chili cook off
- Easter egg hunt
- Fundraisers
- Pumpkin decorating / Trunk or Treat
- Mardis Gras and other celebrations



# Outreach

An important way that many members of St. Luke's act out their faith is by reaching out to those in the community. We consider it a priority to connect with the community in meaningful ways. The local community is filled with long-time residents who love the city that feels more like a town, but with a poverty rate of 29%, it also has significant needs.

We have done a range of activities in the past, and are currently involved in the following activities:

- Homeless Shelter: Ypsilanti's first homeless shelter found its home at St. Luke's Ypsi, and opened 2/5/23.
- Hope Clinic: We help provide 100+ meals each month to the community.
- CROP Hunger Walk: We walk and raise funds to combat hunger locally and nationally.
- SWOOPS pantry at Eastern Michigan University: We provide food and personal care items for students.

"In all this I have given you an example that by such work we must support the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, for he himself said, "It is more blessed to give than to received."

—Acts 20:35

- Washtenaw Refugee Welcome: We provide bedding, clothing, personal care items, housewares, and space for storage and events.
- Perry Elementary School: We donated backpacks and school supplies.
- Visits to Gilbert House Retirement Community: We sing Christmas hymns and deliver cookies.

In addition, we are making progress in our effort to strengthen our connections to the students of Eastern Michigan University (EMU), which is situated in the city of Ypsilanti, by re-establishing a campus ministry. We have one St. Luke's member who is also an EMU student who is actively working towards that goal in collaboration with our Interim Rector.



# Our Church and Early History



"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them." –Matthew 18:20

Ypsilanti's Episcopal roots reach back to 1829, when an Episcopal priest was invited to preach to the area's first settlers, and a layman settled in the area and held services. St. James' Episcopal Church was officially established in 1830 at the current location (120 N. Huron St). It was one of the six founding parishes of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan, established in 1832. St. James' church was reorganized as St. Luke's in 1837, the same year Michigan became a state. The present church was erected and consecrated in 1858.

From its inception, St. Luke's has stood for social justice and equality. Black parishioners have worshiped in the church since before the Civil War, and many enslaved people searching for freedom passed through Ypsilanti as they followed the

It is a special experience to walk into St. Luke's church, witness the stained glass on all four sides of the sanctuary, and feel the Spirit of the Lord.

St. Luke's Church was built in three stages. The original church was built in 1858 and includes the sanctuary and a small chapel. All four sides of the church are graced with stained glass windows, installed in the late 1940's.

The 1928 addition includes classrooms, offices, and a theater; and the final 1958 addition includes additional rooms, a kitchen, and a large gathering hall. The grounds also include a sacred Cloister Garth Memorial Garden, which contains the ashes of many members and friends of the church. The Garth contains the original church bell and a beautiful mosaic of Jesus the Good Shepherd.

St. Luke's Ypsi provides a beautiful sanctuary not only for its church members; it is also put to use by members of the community. Prior to being shut down by COVID-19, the building was a destination for Ypsilanti's First Friday, an arts and cultural event. We currently rent out offices in the 1958 addition to community members who share our values of service.

Underground Railroad to freedom. Odawa Chief Andrew Blackbird worshiped here in the 1880's while a student at EMU, and women have long been a vital core of the congregation.

Throughout its nearly 200 years, the church has evolved and grown and changed. In this post-COVID world, the members of St. Luke's Ypsi are ready to pivot again to remain a vital source for God's love and healing power in the world.



# The Area



We are located in downtown Ypsilanti (pronounced ip-suh-LAN-tee), a 4.5 square mile city with about 25,000 permanent residents. It is a diverse community (62% White, 25.5% Black, 6% Hispanic, 2.5% Asian, 0.2% Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, 0.1% Native American) that celebrates its LGBTQIA+ community. It is the home of Eastern Michigan University (founded in 1849) and its 15,000 students. EMU offers a full range of academic programs, many of which are nationally ranked and internationally recognized.

The church is located on one of the main roads in Ypsilanti. Behind the church is the welcoming 16 acre Riverside Park (pictured below) - which borders the Huron River and connects to Frog Island Park. The place for various annual city events, Riverside Park has a large gazebo by the river, and a newly-installed expansive play area for young children. St. Luke's is a short walk from Depot Town, which is in the historic district of Ypsilanti and home to many restaurants, breweries, and shops. An even shorter walk in the other direction brings you to many more downtown restaurants and businesses.

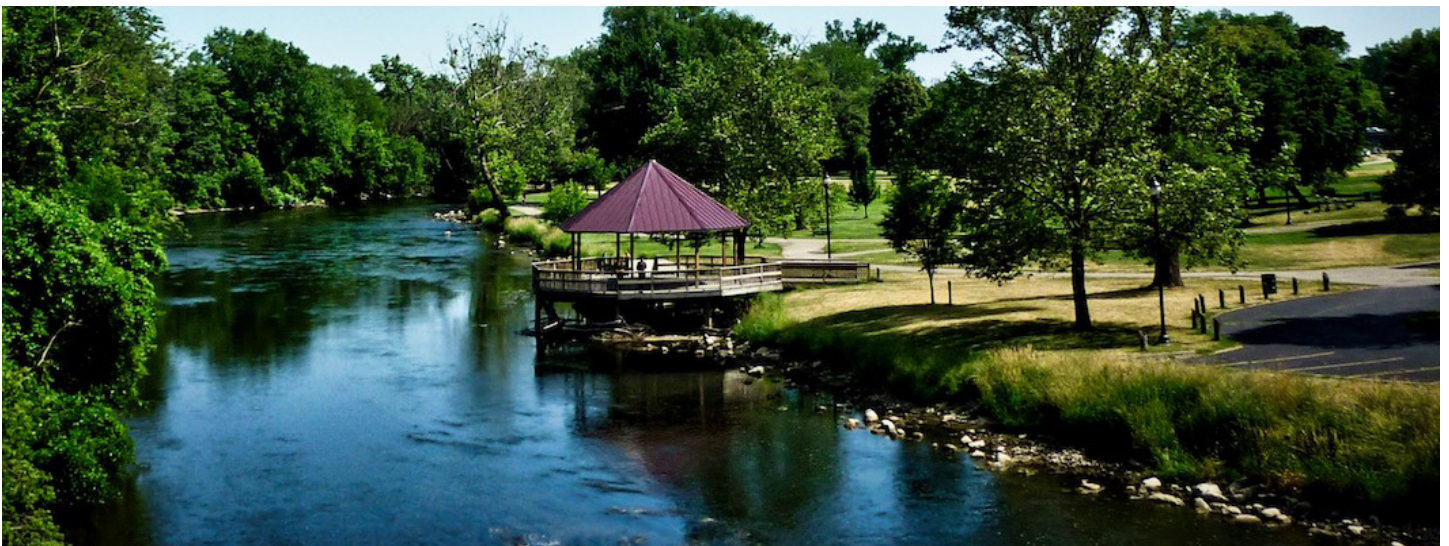
Ypsilanti is surrounded by two townships, and located less than 10 miles from Ann Arbor, a city of

about 124,000 people and the home of the University of Michigan. It is a forward-thinking city committed to sustainability, with a world-class public university that is passionate about social justice.

Ypsilanti is located in Washtenaw County, which includes 12 public school districts, and even more in relatively close proximity to Ypsilanti. Parents of K-12 children have a wide range of choices when it comes to their children's education. When it comes time to pursue higher education, there are more than 90 colleges and universities throughout the State.

In addition to the local cultural offerings in Ypsilanti, both Ann Arbor and Detroit attract internationally-renowned artists and groups. Detroit, which is located 35 miles east of Ypsilanti, has its own art museum, orchestra, opera theater, and sports teams (football, baseball, hockey). The Detroit International Airport is located 16 miles from Ypsilanti.

Northern Michigan and all the Michigan beaches are popular vacation getaways. A shorter drive will take you to many lakes and hiking trails in the area.



# How to Apply

If you are interested in becoming our next Rector, please send the following documents:

1. A letter addressed to the Search Committee in which the candidate (a) offers a self-introduction, and (b) describes why they feel drawn into discernment around this particular position. The specific form, length, and content of the letter is at the candidate's discretion;
2. A current resume; and
3. A .pdf of the candidate's current Office of Transition Ministries Portfolio, including answers to all of the narrative questions.

to:

The Rev. Canon Ellen Ekevag, Canon for Congregational Development and Transitions for the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan

*by email:* [eekevag@edomi.org](mailto:eekevag@edomi.org)

*or by mail:* 4800 Woodward Ave, Detroit, MI 48201.

It is very helpful (though not required) if all three documents can be sent as attachments to a single email.

## About the Diocese

St. Luke's is part of the Diocese of Michigan, one of four dioceses of Michigan. We are blessed with a supportive Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Dr. Bonnie Perry, who stays in close contact with the rectors in the diocese. She is passionate about outreach, connections with business, local and state leaders, social justice, and even using technology to help stay connected.

## Contact Us

### **St. Luke's Episcopal Church**

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