



Office for  
Transition  
Ministry

# Ministry Portfolio

*Full Portfolio (last updated Mar 3, 2023)*

## St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Michigan

120 N. Huron Street, Ypsilanti, MI 48197, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 05/15/23.

[eekevag@edomi.org](mailto:eekevag@edomi.org)

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA) <b>40</b>	Number of Weekend Worship Services <b>1</b>	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position <b>\$61246</b>	Housing Available for	Pension Plan <b>We're in compliance with CPF requirements.</b>
Healthcare Options <b>Full family</b>	Dental <b>Yes</b>	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Vacation Weeks <b>One month, including 5 Sundays (standard)</b>	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks <b>2 (standard)</b>	Continuing Education Weeks Details
Continuing Education Funding in budget <b>\$501-\$1000/year</b>	Sabbatical Provision <b>Yes</b>	Travel/Auto Account <b>Yes</b>	Other Professional Account <b>Yes</b>

*Compensation available includes the SECA reimbursement*

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Describe a moment in your worshipping community's recent ministry which you recognize as one of success and fulfillment.

A great success of St. Luke's Ypsi recent ministry was helping Rev. Eric Braun answer the call to the priesthood. Eric was a longtime member of St. Luke's and sang in the choir. When he began the discernment process in 2016, a parish committee helped Eric discuss the holy vocation. St. Luke's was faithful to Eric throughout his education and training. The congregation gave thousands of dollars toward his tuition at seminary. Eric attended St. Luke's and sang in the choir during this time. When he pursued CPE at St. Joseph's Mercy Hospital in Ypsilanti, parishioners were delighted to hear him share his love for what he was learning. When Eric was ordained a deacon in December 2021, members of St. Luke's traveled to the Cathedral in Detroit to serve as sponsors. When Eric was ordained a priest in his home parish of St. Luke's, over 100 people filled the sanctuary as Bishop Bonnie welcomed Eric into the priesthood. For the next month, Eric led our congregation and worship services before our interim arrived. Eric has discovered that his vocation is as a hospital chaplain and he continues at St. Joseph's. He still finds time to regularly attend and occasionally supply at St. Luke's.

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How are you preparing yourselves for the Church of the future?

The church of the future is probably a concern for most who are actively involved in a church community. St. Luke's is not alone in seeing declining numbers, and the pandemic only fueled the decline. However, we see tremendous opportunities for growth, combined with tremendous need in our community. It is not just the members of St. Luke's who would feel the loss if we closed our doors. So we remain committed to our own stewardship, which includes stewardship of our community. Many individuals are ready to work on a plan for the future, even in advance of the arrival of our new rector. We have managed to achieve a balanced budget for several years, and have the hope and will to hire a full time rector to help us with our goals, and keep us ever faithful to the teachings of Christ. Due to the historic nature of our 1858 sanctuary, we have attempted to anticipate future needs, rather than be surprised by them. As noted above, we have rented out some of the rooms in the additions to help with the budget, and to serve the community. We are not alone in needing a space to gather. We believe God wants St. Luke's Ypsi to thrive and be a beacon for the community.

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Please provide words describing the gifts and skills essential to the future leaders of your worshipping community.

communicative, collaborative, innovative, pastoral

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Describe your liturgical style and practice for all types of worship services provided by your community.

Grounded and compelling worship is the reason why people find their way to St. Luke's, and it is one of the main reasons why they stay. 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. 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. St. Luke's offers one service each Sunday, but there is significant interest in adding activities during the week. The church is not currently set up for remote interactions, and we would like to add a zoom option for our services. Music is an important part of our services, which is offered by the choir (small but faithful), and by the music director. We have both an organ and grand piano in the sanctuary. We typically use the 1982 Hymnal, and less frequently: Worship and Rejoice; Wonder, Love, and Praise; and Lift Every Voice and Sing II.

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How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

St. Luke's Ypsi encourages all members of the congregation to participate in the service, and in our variety of outreach and congregational activities. Individuals can easily sign up for activities that they are informed about either during the announcements time in the Sunday service, in the weekly e-newsletter that is sent to all members, or by visible sign up sheets. In addition, the rector, office staff, or individuals may reach out to trusted individuals to satisfy unmet needs. These activities include: being a reader, usher, or LEM during the service; Sunday School teacher; coffee hour host; altar guild member; musicians; contributing to one of the several community support efforts that are ongoing - which are described elsewhere in this document; participating in the prayer chain; helping with occasional events, etc. There have been activities, such as the monthly dinners we led pre-COVID, in which non-parishioners joined us because they wanted to help the community in that way. Many members are interested in expanding the type of ministries offered, both within the congregation and by becoming more involved in the surrounding area.

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As a worshipping community, how do you care for your spiritual, emotional and physical well-being?

The people of St. Luke's are at different stages in their spiritual journey and their own relationship with God and Jesus Christ. Everyone is free to take their journey in their own way and at their own pace. It is a treat to listen to individual stories during Stewardship season, when members talk about why they give back to St. Luke's. This is when we all get a glimpse of the power of the Spirit to change people's lives and motivate them to action. It is inspiring to learn how St. Luke's in particular has sustained them and helped them on their journey. The friendly and supportive nature of the St. Luke's community does much to sustain its members. In addition, members of the prayer chain respond to known needs in a variety of ways. In the past, the Rector has taken primary responsibility for caring for home-bound members of the congregation. However, there is interest by several individuals to create a more formal way for lay people to provide pastoral care. Coffee hour provides an opportunity for individuals to gather outside the worship service. We have a variety of congregational events throughout the year, including a monthly poetry group. We enjoy occasional Bible studies.

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

St. Luke's Ypsi is deeply committed to serving the community, which has significant needs (nearly 30% of the Ypsilanti population is at the poverty level). In addition to our involvement with the Hope Clinic and SWOOP'S Food Pantries, described above, St. Luke's Ypsi is always one of the leaders in the amount of money raised during the annual Ypsilanti Area Crop Hunger Walk. We support the group, Washtenaw Refugee Welcome (WRW), a volunteer organization that provides long-term support to refugees settling in the region. We have also supported other efforts, including a backpack drive and winter apparel collection for local schools, at their request. In recent years, St. Luke's Ypsi has provided valuable, low-cost office space for members of the community. Users of the space have included counselors, entrepreneurs, and social workers, as well as artistic groups and individuals. We have also opened up the church for Ypsilanti First Fridays, welcoming local artists to showcase their talent, and hosted spaghetti dinners for EMU students. We do not serve so as to convert; we only seek to follow the path of Christ in serving our neighbors.

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Describe your worshipping community's involvement in either the wider Church or geographical region.

There is a strong desire at St. Luke's to be a visible presence in the community. Ypsilanti (4.47 sq. mi.) is the most diverse community in the local area, and it celebrates its LGBTQIA+ population. In addition to other outreach activities mentioned elsewhere, we feel strongly connected to Eastern Michigan University (EMU). There are currently discussions with a current student and the Interim Rector to establish a campus ministry. We support EMU's food pantry by providing food and personal care items on a regular basis. The second primary collaboration is with Hope Clinic's Food Pantry. We help provide hot meals on a carry-out basis monthly. St. Luke's maintains close ties with the Diocese. We are blessed to have an involved Bishop who is passionate about outreach, connections with business, local and state leaders, and social justice. The Diocese has supported St. Luke's Ypsi in many ways, not the least of which is financially. For example, they have approved our request for a curacy grant, and they have provided funds to upgrade and maintain our boiler system. Our members occasionally take advantage of Diocesan courses.

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Tell about a ministry that your worshipping community has initiated in the past five years. Who can be contacted about this?

St. Luke's has recently become the home of Ypsilanti's first overnight shelter. We were approached by a member of city council in Fall 2022 to see if our church could be used. Discussions started to take place between the Interim Rector, lay-leaders and the county shelter organization. Senior lay leaders found that the mission of serving one of our most needy populations should be pursued and presented the proposal to vestry. Once the vestry approved moving forward there was a congregational vote overwhelmingly in favor of providing the facilities. After the Diocese approved the request, city council voted unanimously to approve a contract between the city, St. Luke's and the shelter association. The Washtenaw Area Shelter Association first opened at St. Luke's in February 2023. St. Luke's provides space for 20 homeless members of our community four nights a week. The Association staffs the halls. This will run until April 2023 and the contract can be revisited in fall 2023. The best people to contact for additional information are our Senior Warden, Allison Echlin (a4fluke@gmail.com), and our Interim Rector, Beth Scriven (escriven@stlukesypsi.org).

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

In terms of financial stewardship, each year in the Fall we have our stewardship campaign to ask people to pledge what they anticipate giving for the coming year. We often have members talk about why they give during the church service, and lately have tried to include voices not heard in the past. Their stories of how their faith intersects with their financial gifts to the church are inspiring. One year we talked about what we do in the community, and another year we talked about where the money goes. A letter is also sent to everyone in the congregation each year, with a form that prompts us to indicate non-financial ways we can give back to the church/community. During past years, we have participated in a variety of fundraising activities, such as providing parking spaces during city events, a silent auction, and more. Our members steward the church and grounds with clean up and planting days. And we have been having more mid-year updates on the budget. We steward the community in a variety of ways, as noted above - and we give to the Diocese. We promote social equity and justice from the pulpit, and for many members, through their own independent activities in the world.

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What is your worshipping community's experience of conflict? And how have you addressed it?

There have been blessedly few conflicts between members of the congregation over the past decade or more. The community is what keeps most members returning, and that means they have a willingness to adjust to varying viewpoints and find common ground. The vestry values honest and open conversations which helps to resolve conflicts and avoid escalations in temper. Therefore, the disagreements among members have been resolved privately, and tend not to result in people leaving the church. There have, unfortunately, been conflicts between the Rector and individual members of the congregation which have resulted in members leaving the church. Typically, the vestry and other members of the congregation were not invited to help address the issues, or only learned of the conflict after the fact. Often it has been personal style differences that caused the conflict, or lack of appropriate communication. This may be why a talent for communication and collaboration was mentioned as the overwhelming characteristic that our members mentioned as being important in our next rector.

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What is your experience leading/addressing change in the church? When has it gone well? When has it gone poorly? And what did you learn?

A recent example of change has been to make the church more ADA accessible. With the advent of renting out the building, many prospective renters were concerned about the building's lack of accessibility, and the Rector wanted to be able to have more Diocesan-wide events at the church. This generated a good deal of excitement among the congregation, though a few also wondered why we should invest in something so costly that would change the church. There were many informal and formal conversations between the Rector and the vestry and members of the congregation beginning late 2018. We went through a proposal for a \$750K two-floor elevator, then a proposal for an extensive \$250K ramp that wrapped around the building, and finally to a simple wheelchair lift at a cost of \$50K. This was approved by the congregation. The lift, certified in March 2019, has been a welcome addition to many, but also a let-down to others who still imagine the elevator. Through this and other church upgrades, the congregation has learned to adapt their dreams to financial realities - without losing their eagerness to continue to invest in projects important to the congregation and to the community.



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### Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Beth Scriven	Interim	2022-08	

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Dr. JoAnn Kennedy Slater	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2001-09	2022-06

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
The Rev. Jasper Pennington	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1983-01	2001-07

Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
yes	5	8

Number of Teachers/Leaders for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Students for Teen/Young Adults School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Adults School	Number of Students for Adults School

Day School	Number of Students for Day School	Number of Teachers for Day School	Number of Total Staff for Day School



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Worshipping Community Web site: <http://stlukesypsi.org/>

Media Links:

Online References:

[www.facebook.com/stlukesypsi](http://www.facebook.com/stlukesypsi)  
Instagram: @st.lukesypsi

Languages Significantly Represented:

Provide Worship or Classes in:

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### References

Bishop:

**The Rt Rev Dr Bonnie A Perry**

e-mail: [bishopperry@edomi.org](mailto:bishopperry@edomi.org) phone: 313-832-4400

Diocesan Transition Minister

**The Rev. Canon Ellen Ekevag**

e-mail: [eekevag@edomi.org](mailto:eekevag@edomi.org) phone: 630-258-8882

Current Warden/Board Chair

**Allison Echlin**

e-mail: [a4fluke@gmail.com](mailto:a4fluke@gmail.com) Phone: 517-896-1285

Previous Warden/Board Chair

**Sally Epskamp**

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Search Chair

**Catharine June**

[cathjune@gmail.com](mailto:cathjune@gmail.com)

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader

**Brian Jones-Chance**

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