



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Ypsilanti, Michigan



All Are Welcome!



St Lukes
Episcopal Church
FOUNDED 1830

St Lukes
Episcopal Church
Sunday Service:
10 a.m.
All are Welcome!
Really!

Full Chalice Church School and Nursery Care
Home of EMU Campus Ministry

JOIN
US!



We are:

- A faithful community committed to following Jesus Christ through worship, service, and the love of our neighbors.
- Excited for new leadership and opportunities for growth, discernment, and renewal.
- A congregation with a deep love for one another, the Episcopal Church, and the Ypsilanti community.
- Passionate about serving our neighbors through outreach ministries and partnerships like the Shelter Association of Washtenaw County.
- A parish made up of people with diverse political and social perspectives who are united by worship, service, and a shared commitment to Jesus Christ.
- A liturgically grounded congregation rooted in the Book of Common Prayer that enjoys elements of both “high church” Anglican worship as well as an approachable, modern worship style.
- A parish that welcomes LGBTQ+ people into all aspects of parish life and leadership.
- A congregation that values thoughtful preaching, meaningful relationships, and collaborative ministry.

“Since joining the Vestry, my eyes have been opened to the number of individuals who serve the St. Luke’s community! They quietly offer their faith, their service, their ideas, and their time to bless the community inside and outside the walls of our church.”

**—Catharine June,
Senior Warden**

We are looking for:

- A joyful and grounded priest who will continue offering reverent, welcoming, and spiritually nourishing worship.
- A compassionate pastor who can support and equip the congregation in ministries of care, hospitality, and mutual support.
- A collaborative leader comfortable working with lay leadership, community partners, tenants, and outreach ministries.
- A priest who can build thoughtfully on the parish’s strengths while discerning sustainable opportunities for growth and renewal.
- Someone who values the Episcopal tradition and can communicate Scripture and church history in ways that are faithful, accessible, and relevant to everyday life.
- A preacher who understands the culture of a politically and socially diverse congregation and can foster Christian formation rooted in the Gospel without reducing sermons to commentary on current events.
- A creative and community-minded leader excited to partner with the congregation in serving both the parish and the wider Ypsilanti community.
- Someone who shares our conviction that all are welcome in the life of the Church.

The People

Our worshiping community

St. Luke's is a parish shaped by relationships. Through worship, fellowship, outreach, and shared service, members build meaningful connections rooted in a shared commitment to following Jesus Christ.

Our congregation includes lifelong Episcopalians who have worshiped here for decades alongside newer members, young families, and individuals discovering the Episcopal tradition for the first time. This blend of institutional memory and new energy gives the parish both stability and openness to growth.

Children are an important part of parish life. Our church school offers formation and creative activities for younger members, and children are always welcome in worship. On many Sundays, the joyful return of children from Sunday School during announcements is one of the highlights of the morning.

St. Luke's has a long history of nurturing vocations and lay leadership. One longtime member, The Rev. Eric Braun, discerned a call to ordained ministry while actively participating in parish life. Last summer, the congregation sent clergy and lay leaders to the College for Congregational Development.

The relationship between clergy and vestry is collaborative and grounded in respect. Parish leadership values thoughtful discernment, open communication, and prayerful decision making. While perspectives may differ, the church approaches challenges and opportunities with grace and shared sense of purpose.

The parish is sustained by dedicated volunteers who contribute their gifts in administration, worship, outreach, pastoral care, and parish life. Many members bring deep knowledge of the congregation's history while remaining open to innovative ideas and ministries.

St. Luke's values learning, growth, and faithful experimentation. We strive to cultivate generosity, humility, and hope as we continue discerning how God is calling us to serve our neighbors and one another.



Stewardship Bonfire and Cook-out

How We Worship

Worship at St. Luke's is rooted in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer and shaped by a reverent yet welcoming liturgical tradition. We regularly draw from both Rite I and Rite II while remaining accessible to newcomers and adaptable to the needs of the congregation.

Our parish leans toward a traditional or "high church" style of worship. Music plays an important role in parish life, and on special occasions we incorporate bells, incense, and other ceremonial elements that deepen the beauty and prayerfulness of worship.

The liturgical life of the parish extends beyond Sunday mornings. In addition to weekly worship, St. Luke's observes major feasts and seasons through services such as the All Souls' Requiem Mass, Longest Night Mass, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and celebrations surrounding our patronal feast day. During Pride Month, the parish also hosts a Pride Mass as part of its commitment to LGBTQ+ inclusion and hospitality.

St. Luke's also participates in ecumenical worship services and community observances with neighboring churches, including Ash Wednesday services, Holy Week collaborations, and St. Francis Day pet blessings.

The priest takes primary responsibility for planning worship while collaborating with musicians, lay ministers, and parish leaders. Members of the congregation actively participate through reading, serving at the altar, singing, and other liturgical ministries.

Above all, worship at St. Luke's is participatory, joyful, and centered on the worship of God.

"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, ordained priest and longtime member of St. Luke's



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

—John McCurdy, Altar Guild Member

Staff and Finances

Paid Staff: Rector (fulltime)
Music Director (part time)
Office Administrator (part time)
Accountant (part time)

Over the past six years (2019-25), St. Luke's ran a surplus for four years, and a deficit for two. Much of that is due to a curacy grant from the diocese. Our budget is bolstered by income from renters. In a typical year, approximately 13% of our income comes from tenants. We have a small endowment that we can tap in a financially sustainable way as needed. We also hold two certificates of deposit and have a healthy bank balance. In 2024 and 2025, 57-58% of our income came from pledges and general donations, and 46-48% went to salaries.

In reach

Members of St. Luke's value both meaningful worship and the relationships formed through shared life together. The parish seeks to foster a culture of hospitality, mutual care, and spiritual companionship in which people are known, supported, and encouraged in their faith.

Members care for one another through prayer, fellowship, meals, pastoral support, and shared activities. The parish continues to strengthen ministries of connection and care, including outreach to homebound members, pastoral visitation ministries.

“Everyone is encouraged to participate in any way that they feel comfortable.”

—Janis Sargent, Altar Guild, Former long-time Nursery Leader and lifelong member

Current Ministries and Parish Groups:

- Nursery and Sunday School
- Altar Guild
- Building and Grounds Committee
- Pastoral Care Team
- Poetry Group
- Liturgy and Worship Committee

Recent Parish Activities:

- Coffee Hour
- Lenten Dinners and Discussions
- "Theology on Tap" Gatherings
- Chili Cookoff
- Easter Egg Hunts
- Mardi Gras and other Celebrations



Theology on Tap Event

Our Church and History

The Episcopal presence in Ypsilanti dates back to 1828 when a priest preached to the area's first settlers. In 1830, Rev. Silas C. Freeman and Andrew Cornish founded St. James's on the current church location, and two years later, St. James was one of the six founding parishes of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan. The parish reorganized as St. Luke's in 1837, the same year Michigan became a state. In 1858, the church consecrated its sanctuary, which was designed by the Detroit firm Anderson and Jordan.

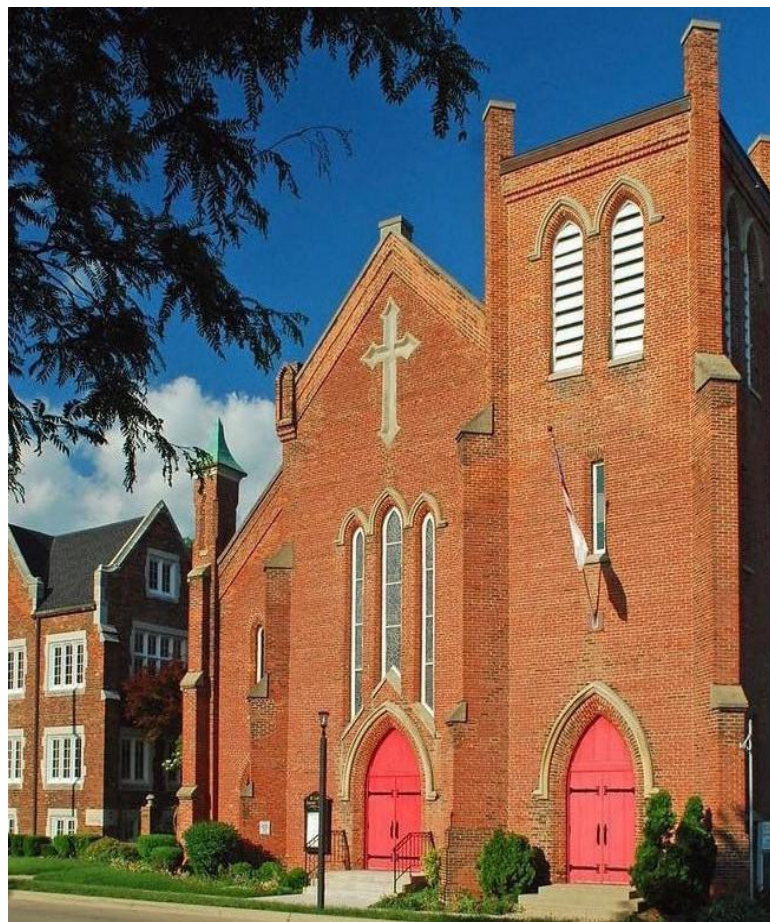
Throughout its history, St. Luke's has sought to witness to the Gospel through worship and service. African Americans attended the church prior to the Civil War when Ypsilanti played a key role in the Underground Railroad. Women have long been vital to St. Luke's. The Ladies Church Aid Society was organized during the Civil War, and more recently, women have served as rectors, vestry members, and wardens of the church. In 2001, St. Luke's welcomed its first openly LGBTQ+ priest.

The chartering of Michigan State Normal School (now Eastern Michigan University) in 1849 brought a connection between the college and church that continues to this day. In 1857, Odawa leader Andrew Blackbird was confirmed at St. Luke's while a student at the school. MSNS Principal John M. B. Sill served as rector of St. Luke's in the 1880s. Before departing to become US Consul General to Korea, Sill donated the Lord's Table that is still used every Sunday to celebrate the Eucharist.

As Ypsilanti grew, so too did St. Luke's. In 1928, a three-story Parish House was added with offices, classrooms, and a theater. In 1955, a third building was attached which includes the Great Rood Hall. The sanctuary was modified as well, with a pulpit designed by Tiffany Company added in 1916 in memory of longtime rector William H. Gardam, a Holtkamp organ built in 1947, and stained glass windows installed in 1949. The Cloister Garth was consecrated in 1974, and the Good Shepherd mosaic by EMU Art Professor Jane McAllister Dart installed in 1991.

As Ypsilanti struggled with deindustrialization in the late twentieth century, St. Luke's expanded its ministry. In 1993, the church first participated in Habitat for Humanity. The Shelter Association of Washtenaw County started using the Great Hall as a warming shelter in 2023.

As St. Luke's looks to its third century in service to the Lord, it continues to honor its history while discerning how God is calling it to serve with faith, hospitality, and hope.



The Area

St. Luke's is located in downtown Ypsilanti (pronounced ip-suh-LAN-tee), a 4.5 square mile city with about 20,000 permanent residents. It is a diverse community (57% White, 25% Black, 9% Hispanic, 6% Asian and Hawaiian/Pacific Islander) that celebrates its LGBTQ+ community. It is also home to Eastern Michigan University and its 12,000 students.

St. Luke's is located on one of the main roads in Ypsilanti. Behind the church is 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 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 is Michigan Avenue with its many restaurants and businesses.

Ypsilanti is part of a larger, vibrant community. Nearly 100,000 people reside in neighboring townships. Less than ten miles down the road is Ann Arbor, a city of 122,000, and the home to the University of Michigan.



Ypsilanti is located in Washtenaw County, which includes twelve public school districts. Parents of K-12 children have a wide range of choices in Ypsilanti and the surrounding communities, and there are more than ninety colleges and universities throughout the state.

In addition to the local cultural offerings, both Ann Arbor and Detroit attract internationally-renowned artists and groups. Detroit, which is located thirty-five miles east of Ypsilanti, has art museum, orchestra, opera theater, and sports teams (football, baseball, basketball, and hockey). The Detroit International Airport (DTW) is located just sixteen 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.



The Episcopal Diocese of Michigan is an open, affirming and welcoming body of Christ. We are grounded in our commitment to both embrace our neighbors with the unconditional love of Christ, and to uphold and maintain our histories and traditions. No matter who you are, there is a sacred place for you in this diocese.

Guided by our bishop, The Rt. Rev. Dr. Bonnie A. Perry, we are a diocese that



values collegiality, creativity, and openness. We offer the College of Congregational Development, community organizing and ongoing collegiality and support. We invite you to come and join us as we embody the Gospel both inside and outside our church doors. Learn more about our diocese at www.edomi.org

Discern with Us: How to Apply

Interested clergy should send their cover letter, addressed to the search committee; current resume, and a PDF of your current Vocation Hub or OTM Profile to The Rev. Canon Susie Shaefer, sshaefer@edomi.org.

