

## **Welcome to St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Simeon!**

You do not have to join the church in a formal way to worship, attend classes, participate in activities, and financially support the ministries of the church. All baptized persons, adults and children, are always welcome to receive Communion. We invite you to consider becoming a member of St. Luke's. There are several ways to do this, outlined below.

### **Becoming a Member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church**

*\* If you are an Episcopalian:*

If you are a member of another Episcopal congregation, or were ever confirmed in an Episcopal Church, you can transfer your membership. Provide the Vicar with the name and location of the church and the approximate dates of your membership or, if you were confirmed there, the approximate date of confirmation, and we will send for a letter of transfer---or you may wish to contact your previous parish yourself. (We have a directory of all Episcopal Churches, with addresses and telephone numbers.)

*\* If you are a member of another Christian denomination:*

If you were baptized with water in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in any Christian denomination, you may become a "baptized member" of St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Just provide the Vicar with your birth date and place and your baptismal date and place.

*\* If you are from another province of the Anglican Communion:*

If you are a confirmed Anglican from, for example, the Church of England, provide the Vicar with your birth date and place, baptismal date and place, and Confirmation date, place and bishop.

*\* If you have not been baptized:*

Call the Vicar to arrange a baptism. Baptisms are done at regularly scheduled services on Sundays and the feast days specified by the *Book of Common Prayer* (Baptism of Our Lord, Easter, Pentecost, and All Saints). Anyone baptized at St. Luke's Church is a "baptized member."

*\* If you wish to be confirmed or received:*

The *Book of Common Prayer* defines Confirmation as “the rite in which we express a mature commitment to Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop.” Confirmation classes are offered as needed. Any baptized adult, and any baptized youth in eighth grade or higher, is eligible.

Persons who have been confirmed in another denomination by a bishop in the apostolic succession (most often Roman Catholic or Orthodox) are “received” by the bishop rather than confirmed. Those who have been confirmed or received are classified as “confirmed communicants.”

Speak with the Vicar if you are interested in confirmation or reception.

### **Stewardship at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church**

*\* Making a financial commitment:*

The *Book of Common Prayer* says that the duty of all Christians is to “follow Christ; to come together week by week for corporate worship; and to work, pray, and give for the spread of the kingdom of God.”

Most members make an annual pledge of financial support, either during the fall giving campaign or at any time during the year. Speak to the Vicar or a Vestry member for a pledge card.

### **St. Luke’s Episcopal Church Members**

*\* Members in good standing:*

A member in good standing is one whose baptism is entered in the parish register (through one of the means described above), who worships regularly, and who is a contributor of record (by pledge or other identifiable financial contribution) to the general support of the parish. Only confirmed adult communicants in good standing may be licensed by the Bishop as lay Lectors (readers), Eucharistic Ministers, and Eucharistic Visitors. All adult communicants in good standing, registered in the particular Church in which they offer to vote, shall be entitled to vote at the election of Vestry members. Only confirmed adult communicants in good standing are eligible to serve on the vestry.