Fourth Sunday of Advent - December 22, 2019

Gospel

When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. Mt 1:18b-20a

Mission Statement

The Church of St. Luke is joyful, welcoming, caring, active family of believers striving to grow in knowledge of and love for God and each other. Challenged by the Word, nurtured by the Eucharist, and enlivened by the Spirit, we seek to live the message of Jesus in serving the needs of others both within our Parish and in the larger community.

Masses

Wed., Thurs., Fri.: 7:30am
Saturday: 5:00pm
Sunday: 9:00am & 11:30am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday: 3:30pm
(also by appointment)

Parish Office Hours

Monday-Friday
9:00am—5:00pm
Fax: (619) 442-2293

Welcome to

THE CHURCH OF

Saint Luke

A ROMAN CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF DISCIPLES

1980 Hillsdale Road
El Cajon, California 92019
(619) 442-1697
www.thechurchofstluke.org

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST READING: **Isaiah 7:10-14**
SECOND READING: **Romans 1:1-7**
GOSPEL: **Matthew 1:18-24**

Reflection: Share about/Reflect upon an important choice, or decision, you've had to make in your life. What were the pros and cons? How did you finally make the decision? Did you rely on logic, chance, feelings, prayer… or what? How can you open yourself more to God's guidance in your decision-making process?

Alternative: Reflect upon/Share about a decision you've made which affected another person or other people. How did you weigh the effect it would have on them? What role did God play in making your decision? How can you give God a larger role?

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Parish Pastoral Council normally meets on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Visitors/ observers are welcome. If you wish to have an item placed on the agenda, contact a Council Member to present it for you, or contact the Parish Office.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Fr. Ron Cochran, Pastor
Mark Balmert, Chairperson
Amy Cannon
Tony Camara
Julia Caputo
Theresa Dodd-Butera
Chuck Duncan
Linda Jacobson
Kay Krueger
Kevin Lawrence
Don Mercurio
Tom Selfani
Jim Sheehan
Dcn. Dennie Nickell (*Deacon Emeritus)*
Dcn. Jerry Stenovec
Dcn. Allan Williams
Jane Cruz Alfano (Staff)

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL

The Parish Finance Council meets every other 4th Wednesday of the month.

PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Fr. Ron Cochran, Pastor
James Chitkowski
Jim Crockett
George Heidenreich
John Krueger
Cathy March
Dave Sapper
Jim Stepovich

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

People like to say that "He is the reason for the season." It has a nice ring to it and it makes us feel good but I'm not sure it is such a good attitude. Actually, I think, we are the reason for the season.

Jesus did not come for our accolades. In spite of the name of the rock musical, he is not a superstar. That is not what his life is about. That is not what he wants. Leave that up to sports and entertainment personalities.

Jesus came, not for himself, but for us. We are the reason for the season. Jesus is God who humbled himself to become human out of pure love for us. He gave us the gift of his very self in order that we might be drawn into relationship with Him. He wants relationship, not adulation.

If I'm right, and I'm sure I am, the question is how do we respond appropriately to his advances. The answer is, I think, that we open ourselves to relationship with Him. Like relationship with any other person, it requires attention. And like other relationships, it requires attention more than once a year or once a month or once a week. Relationship is ongoing and living or it's not relationship at all.

In our tradition, we gather as a community of his friends once a week. In John 15:15, Jesus told his disciples that he no longer calls them slaves because "a slave does not know his masters business". He calls them "friends" because He has revealed everything to them. To be his friend we have to allow Him to reveal everything to us. For that we have to stay in contact with him. We do that through our communal prayer life on Sundays and through other communal and private religious practices.

This Christmas, as we celebrate our Lords gift of self to us, let's consider what our response has been and what our response should be. Let's make our Thank You for this great gift a commitment to stay in relationship with him throughout the year.

Merry Christmas,

Fr. Ron

Remember in Your Prayers, Weekly Readings, Mass Intentions

Laman Abdulahad, Eileen Milnick, Jose Luis, Bobbie Allen, Dave Blumenfeld, Thomas Dennison, Charli David, Michael C. Johnson, Robyn Hima, Michael Sanchez, Joanne Silva, Carol Vail, Thomas & Charlie Frechette, Irene Sowada, Janice Jones, Pat Roehrich, Meg & Jacob Seilheimer, Michele Peterson, Donna & John Vugrin, Marckis Lee, Carlos Zarate, Gail Balga, Bill Washkevich, David Sanderlin, Juan Jiménez, Donna McWalter, Cindy McLaughlin, Christian Colon, Sofia Healy, Citiali Chavez, Rosalie Cline, Sandie Tessier, Logan Bedsole, Jeanette Craig, David Ashbaugh, Chris Martin, Mavi Ghio, Ryan Smith, Matthew Chu, Rose Falls, Richard Frechette, Ann Hansell, Reilly Phipps, Mike McFaul, Richard Spurling, Dean Mellos, Eric Matus, Sally Williams, Gabe Eddy, Harriet B, Nora Toscano, Eugenio Cesena, Jeanne Brunner, Patty Hayes and Family, Glen Stewart, Corrine Warcholik, Colleen London, Laurie Lindow, Joey Enderwood, Bob Cole, Paul Folsom, John Stevenson, Zoey Thomas, La Mice Denton, Brian Hill, Gary Corwin, Lorraine Flint, Bill Phillips, Isaac Armas, Mary Botte, Lara Pasi, Nancy Usrey, Ryan Cochran, Emmanuel Hallak, Dylan Coughlin, Selena Chum, Jimmie Davis, Rachel Chavez, Michele Chavez, Helen Chu, Al Bowen, Joyce Kammer, Theresa Warcholik, Cheryl Berry, Natalie Enriquez, Candace Dayton, Ladel, Michael Ward, Nina Murphy, Noel Fisher, Jason Zdunich, Karen Bennett, Connie Elba, Charles Brown, Jim Leachman, Christine Banuelos, Jose Orrantia, Mina Scannicchio, Carol Petrich, Carey Moore, Jose Azarza, Parker Landis, Joan Smith, Jackie, Jeff Rogers, Michelle Tello, Chase Laird, Vera Navetta, Miriam Kaskorkis, Adelaide Fitzwater, Alice Zizzo, Luis Orrantia, Sophia Christensen, Cindy Russell, Karen Walker, Mike Murphy, Ann Mussomeli, Jeanine DeSanti, Joe James Sowards, Vie Liddell, Jennifer Soares, Dorothea Wall, Antoinette Daquisto-Guidi, Bob Weisham, Teri Harrison, Danielle P., Maria Warcholik, Ruthie Condon, Marin Mejia, Mike Marcon, Theresa & Vito Siragusa, Tracy Weaver, Rick Gores, Sue Sullivan, Tommy Collet Sr., Richard Perricone, John Agostini, Austin Gatus, The Hill Family, The Morrison Family, Frances Colombo, Zaim Attisha, Teresa Russo; ***and all relatives and friends who are sick or need prayers.***

To add or remove a name, please contact

Nancy Adema

PARISH FINANCES

In order to fulfill our budget, we need to receive an average of $12,722 in the collection basket each week. Some weeks may be higher and some lower, but we need to maintain that average. Additionally, we have budgeted for an average of $12,802 to be contributed monthly through our Online Giving contribution program.

The total amount budgeted through these sources is $660,095 this year. Our budget includes another $106,384 expected income from other sources; (Annual Catholic Appeal rebates, Christmas & Easter collections, Sacramental donations, interest, one-time gifts and bequests, etc.).

Week of December 15th:

Plate:	$	775.00
Envelope:	$	9,701.00
Total Collection Basket:	**$**	**10,476.00**
Weekly Online Giving:	**$**	**3,284.00**

SUPPORTING THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH: *Once you've made a decision on how much you should be giving, decide how to give.*

WAYS TO GIVE: You can use envelopes as many people do, or set up automatic donations through your bank (forms available in the parish office); you can go to *Online Giving* on the St. Luke website and set up an online giving plan. You may personally manage online giving or call the parish office to arrange a plan administered by the parish Business Manager. Online Giving Link: www.thechurchofstluke.org (click on ***Online Giving***, on the right side of the menu bar). For additional information, please call the parish office at 619-442-1697.

PLEASE PRAY FOR DECEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:

Wally & Pat Riggs	62 years
David & Arnell Sanderlin	56 years
Marty & Lil Collins	52 years
Dale & Elaine Couch	50 years
John & Christine Weisickle	46 years
Martin & Adriana Holguin	18 years
John & Maribel Compagnone	10 years
Joe & Pauline Doran	8 years

If you would like to have your Wedding Anniversary placed in the bulletin, please call 619-442-1697.

Readings for the week of December 23, 2019

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/ Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [7c, 10b]/ Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

Monday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66

Tuesday: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79

***Wednesday* VIGIL:** Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25 **MIDNIGHT:** Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14 **DAWN:** Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 **DAY:** Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/Jn 1:1-18 or Jn 1:1-5, 9-14

Thursday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 8ab, 16bc and 17 [6]/Mt 10:17-22

Friday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/Jn 20:1a, 2-8

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/ Mt 2:13-18

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/ Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

This Week's Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 21
5:00pm.....**Carol Pyle**, RIP
Sunday, December 22
9:00am.....**Parishioners of St. Luke**
11:30am...**Vera & Connie Dodge**, RIP
Tuesday, December 24
4:00pm.....**Mary Lonergan, RIP**
7:00pm **John Kellher, RIP**
10:00pm**Jim & Kay Dodge, RIP**
Wednesday, December 25
9:00am.....**Joe & Mary Orrantia**, RIP
Thursday, December 26
No Mass—Office closed
Friday, December 27
Communion Service
Saturday, December 28
5:00pm.....**Amer Barbat**, RIP
Sunday, December 29
9:00am.....**Parishioners of St. Luke**
11:30am...**Rose Villaescusa**, RIP

Holiday shopping made easy!

PRE-ORDER gift cards now!
This will ensure the exact cards you want for Christmas shopping (or gifts!) are available and on hand when you're ready to shop.
$10 and $20 stocking stuffers available now for all the fast food places and Starbucks. Cards are on hand. It's time to empty The Giving Tree . Special orders must be placed and paid for this weekend to get the cards before Christmas

Order forms & Gift Cards are available at the Scrip Table in the Baptistery after each Mass thru 12/22.

Scrip gift card sales benefit St. Luke's Outreach Program!

OUTREACH MINISTRY NEWS For October, 2019

Donations (SENT)

$ 100.00	Noah Homes
$ 100.00	Holy Trinity Food Pantry
$ 100.00	Friends of the Poor
$ 100.00	Nativity Prep Academy
$ 100.00	East County Pregnancy Care Clinic
$ 100.00	Crisis House
$ 100.00	East County Transitional Living Center
$ 250.00	Needy Person in the Community
$ 200.00	Father Joe's Village
$ 1, 150.00	**TOTAL**

Donations (RECEIVED):

$ 75.00	Weekend Mass
$ 150.00	Online Giving
$ 225.00	**TOTAL**

(Thank you for your support.)

Thank You Letters/Notes (RECEIVED):
None

St. Luke Assistance Programs:
Delivered 3,931 lb's of food to Anza Elementary School, 131 lb's to Military Special Olympics, and 650 lb's to the Market Place.

Communion for the Homebound

If you or a loved one cannot attend Sunday Mass, a Minister of the Eucharist is available to bring the Eucharist to your home, hospital or convalescent home.

Just call the Church Office (619-442-1697) and your name will be forwarded to the ministry. One of our Ministers will call to set up a convenient time for a visit.

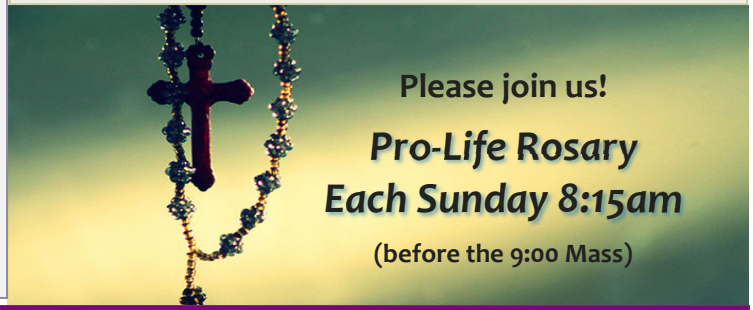
GOSPEL MEDITATION: *ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE*

December 22, 2019 • Fourth Sunday of Advent

Each Advent season, we prepare to welcome Jesus into the inns and stables of our hearts. But Jesus' coming wasn't welcomed by everyone with choirs of angels. For St. Joseph, the first coming of Jesus was a bit more complicated. *"When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit."* For Joseph, opening his heart (and home) to Jesus meant, at best, appearing to all the world like a man who had impregnated his wife out of wedlock. At worst, he appeared a cuckold, raising the child of another man. God doesn't always appear the way we expect.

For some of us, the birth of Christ is a bit relationally complicated. Perhaps over the past few months, a loved one has died. This Christmas, you're taking it upon yourself to keep up the traditions and hold the family together. Welcoming Jesus means welcoming grief. Perhaps it's a difficult relative (or two or three) and it's all you can do to bite your tongue and swallow your pride while they're under your roof. Welcoming Jesus means welcoming strife, discord, and tension.

Yet *"do not be afraid,"* the angel says. Do not be afraid. Why? Because we celebrate the birth of "*Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'*" Before Jesus' earthly ministry would begin, Jesus would lose his father, Joseph. God is with us in our grief. Wherever Jesus went, he stirred up controversy and faced down challenging personalities. God is with us in our stress. The trick is, like Joseph, to allow supernatural grace to prevail. Joseph was a good man, filled with natural virtue in that he didn't want to *"expose [Mary] to shame."* Yet he was prepared to *"divorce her quietly"* all the same. Our natural abilities only take us so far. Where is receiving Jesus complicated this Christmas season? Are you relying on your own strength to get you through, or are you truly ready to accept the grace of Emmanuel, God with us?



Save the Date!

Taste of Saint Luke
International Cuisine Dinner
Saturday, February 8, 2020 • 6:00PM

We will have tables featuring *Polish*, *Italian*, *Chaldean*, *French*, *Mexican*, and *American BBQ*!

(If you're not hosting a table, you also can help by donating gift cards for raffle prizes or assisting with general help for the event!)

If you'd like to be a part of this exciting annual tradition, please contact Linda Kilki

Mark your calendar!

Come and help decorate the church for Christmas!

Monday, December 23rd
beginning at 8:30am

With many hands, we will be done at about noon!
We need men and women; no experience necessary.

We need help decorating the Angel tree, hanging and fluffing wreaths, setting up trees and generally making the Church ready for Christmas!

Coffee & donuts provided

If you can help, please email **Vicky Cate**

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

Our Lady of Perpetual Help
Monday, 12/23 • 9am & 7pm

Poinsettia Memoriams

Poinsettias beautifully decorate our church on Christmas and are a special way to remember loved ones, both living and deceased.
Donation for small poinsettias are $25.00, medium $50.00 and large $150.00.

Envelopes are available in the pews or on the side tables in the Baptistery.

For more information, please call the parish office at 619-442-1697.

Children's Christmas Choir

Rehearsal Dates	Dress Rehearsal
December 21	Tuesday, December 24
3:30pm-4:30pm	2:30pm in the church

The Children's Choir will sing at the 4pm Mass on Christmas Eve!

Celebrate the Savior's Birth!

Christmas

Schedule of Masses

Tuesday, December 24
4:00pm (Children's Choir)
7:00pm
10:00pm

Wednesday, December 25

PARISH DIRECTORY

Pastor: Rev. Ron Cochran (619) 442-1697
Deacon Emeritus: Dennie Nickell (619) 442-1697
Deacon: Jerry Stenovec (619) 442-1697
Deacon: Allan Williams (619) 442-1697
Pastoral Associate: Jane Cruz Alfano (619) 442-1697 x103
Business Manager: Jim Crockett (619) 442-1697 x110
busmgr@thechurchofstluke.org
Secretary: Joanie Maitilasso (619) 442-1697 x101
secretary@thechurchofstluke.org
Bulletin Editor: Joanie Maitilasso (619) 442-1697 x101
secretary@thechurchofstluke.org
Facility Manager: Robert Stevenson (619)442-1697 x109
facman@thechurchofstluke.org
Web Master: Lance Attiq
webmaster@thechurchofstluke.org
Altar Servers: Dcn. Alan Williams (619) 442-1697
Choir Director: Colin McColl
Organist: Susan Paul

FAITH FORMATION

Catechetical Ministry: Jane Cruz Alfano, Pastoral Associate
(619) 442-1697 x103 passoc@thechurchofstluke.org
Coordinator of RCIA: Dcn. Jerry Stenovec
(619) 442-1697
Coordinators of PreK-5 Faith Formation:
Debbie Stenovec; Catechesis of the Good Shepherd
619) 442-1697 x 105 · CGS@thechurchofstluke.org
Jennifer Kroeger; Sacramental Preparation
(619) 442-1697 x 104 · K-5reled@thechurchofstluke.org
Coordinator of Middle & High School Faith Formation, Youth & Young Adult Ministry: Evelyn Beale
(619) 442-2515 x106 · youthreled@thechurchofstluke.org

MINISTRIES & ORGANIZATIONS

Baptism Class: Joanie Maitilasso (619) 442-1697
Church Cleaning Crew: Peggy Nelson
Catholics in Recovery: Jean Goulding
Cub/Boy Scout Religious Emblems:
Shannon Vint
Eucharistic Adoration: Mike Wasyliw
Eucharistic Ministers: Linda Jacobson
Friends of the Poor: Martha Evans
Greeters: Maria Oliver
Knights of Columbus: Eddie Vandiver, GK
Lectors: Susan Smothers
Marriage Preparation: Joanie Maitilasso (619) 442-1697
Ministry to the Sick and Homebound:
Dcn. Jerry Stenovec
Outreach Ministry: Ken Stempien (619) 442-1697
Prayer Chain: Nancy Adema
Culture of Life: Pat Riggs
Scrip: Ed Broadhurst
Small Church Communities:
Jane Cruz Alfano (619) 442-1697 x103
Society of St. Vincent de Paul:
Mike Wasyliw
St. Luke Business Network: Cathy March
Ushers: George Heidenreich

JOANIE MAITILASSO, Bulletin Editor
Office Phone: **(619) 442-1697 • Fax (619) 442-2293**
Office hours: **Monday - Friday, 9:00am - 5:00pm**
secretary@thechurchofstluke.org
DEADLINE FOR BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS: MONDAY AT NOON

❖ This Week at St. Luke ❖

Calendar events are subject to change. For additional calendar and event information, please visit **www.thechurchofstluke.org**

SATURDAY, 12/21 *St. Peter Canisius; Fourth Sunday of Advent*

9:00am Church mopping
3:30pm Children's Christmas Choir Rehearsal
3:30pm Reconciliation
5:00pm Mass w/ First Communions: Anicka & Jack Slouffman

SUNDAY, 12/22 *Fourth Sunday of Advent*

8:15am Pro-Life Rosary
9:00am Mass w/ Children's Liturgy of the Word
10:15am Core Team Meeting (TBD)
11:30am Mass w/Children's Liturgy of the Word
12:30pm Young Adult Retreat Meeting

MONDAY, 12/23 *St. John of Kanty*

8:30am Church Christmas Decorating

TUESDAY, 12/24 *Christmas Eve*

Nativity of the Lord—Holy Day of Obligation
No Women's Scripture Study
4:00pm Mass w/ Children's Choir
7:00pm Mass
10:00pm Mass

WEDNESDAY, 12/25 *Christmas Day*

Nativity of the Lord—Holy Day of Obligation
Office Closed
9:00am Mass
No RCIA Session

THURSDAY, 12/26 *St. Stephen*

Office Closed
No Mass
6:00pm Catholic in Recovery

FRIDAY, 12/27 *St. John, Apostle & Evangelist*

7:30am Communion Service

SATURDAY, 12/28 *The Holy Innocents, Martyrs; The Holy Family*

3:30pm Reconciliation
5:00pm Mass

SUNDAY, 12/29 *The Holy Family*

8:15am Pro-Life Rosary
9:00am Mass w/ Children's Liturgy of the Word
11:30am Mass w/Children's Liturgy of the Word
12:30pm Core Team Meeting

MONDAY, 12/30 *Weekday*

No Meetings

Catholic in Recovery

Weekly meetings are held every Thursday evening, 6:00pm, at St. Luke.

We combine the spiritual principles of 12-step recovery and the traditions of the Catholic Church. Join us as we overlap scripture from Sunday's Mass readings, liturgical themes, and recovery topics with honest discussion and prayer. **Confidentiality is protected.**

We welcome anyone seeking recovery from:

Alcoholism • Drug addiction • Compulsive overeating
Pornography / Sex addiction • Gambling addiction
Control, fear, resentment • A loved one's addiction
or attachment • Other unhealthy attachments

Questions? You may directly contact Jean Goulding, STL Parish Catholic in Recovery Coordinator

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Mass
9:00 am

January 1, 2020

Our first EMMAUS of 2020 will be held
Wednesday, January 15

5:00PM– 7:30PM

Emmaus DiscipleFest

Save the Date

• Please join us! •

We begin with a shared meal, followed by an Opening Prayer, Song, and a Large Group Activity.

Then we separate into age-appropriate learning groups:
Pre-K/Kindergarten • Grades 1-5
Middle/High School • Adults

Finally, we reconvene as a large group then close with Prayer & Song.

Little Treasures

Come and join other families in the Parish Hall for play time together with your babies and toddlers. This group is for all parish families with children from newborn to preschool! Please join us for snacks, playtime and fellowship.

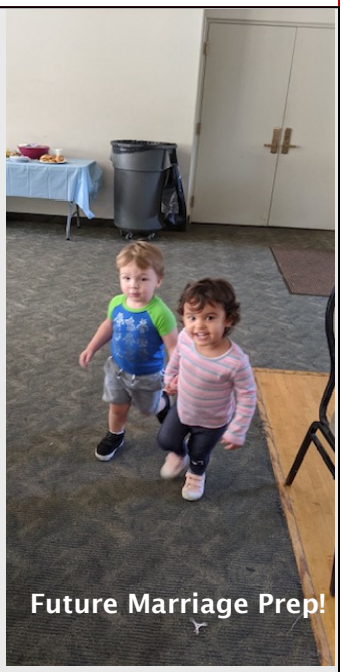
January 16th and 30th from 9:30am-11:00am.

Bring items that make your little treasures smile.

Contact Linda Nance

or Debbie Stenovec at 619-442-1697 or email at cgs@thechurchofstluke.org

Play time fun!


Future Marriage Prep!