



Office for  
Transition  
Ministry

# Ministry Portfolio

*Full Portfolio (last updated Jan 7, 2019)*

## St. Luke's, California

1755 Clay Street, San Francisco, CA 94109, United States

Contact:

Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge | Receiving Names until 02/15/19.

[deniseo@diocal.org](mailto:deniseo@diocal.org)

Weekly Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)	Number of Weekend Worship Services	Number of Weekday Worship Services	Number of Other per Month Worship Services
85	2		
Current Annual Compensation	Cash Stipend	Housing / Rectory Detail	Utilities
SECA reimbursement	Compensation Available for New Position	Housing Available for	Pension Plan
		4	<b>We're in compliance with CPF requirements.</b>
Healthcare Options	Dental	Housing Equity Allowance in budget	Annual Equity Amount
Full family	Yes		
Vacation Weeks	Vacation Weeks Details	Continuing Education Weeks	Continuing Education Weeks Details
4		Other	
Continuing Education Funding in budget	Sabbatical Provision	Travel/Auto Account	Other Professional Account
	Yes		

*C class. [http://diocal.org/sites/default/files/media/PDF%20Docs/2019\\_Budget\\_Planning\\_Packet.pdf](http://diocal.org/sites/default/files/media/PDF%20Docs/2019_Budget_Planning_Packet.pdf)*

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

Our 150th Anniversary Celebration of St. Luke's was a multi-pronged archival and research project and targeted capital drive that demonstrated the spirit of volunteerism, collaboration, and giving that define our members. It was capped by a resplendent service given by Bishop Marc Handley Andrus. The milestone celebration was supported by thorough execution of projects undertaken by parish staff and at least a dozen parishioners including: production of a museum-quality exhibit about the church buildings from the historical archives; publication of a text detailing the biblical symbolism of the church's prominent windows; a celebration service featuring glorious music and floral arrangements inspired by the church's stained-glass windows. The Bishop preached a beautiful sermon illuminating the significance of the care-giving attribute of our patron saint. His message reminded us that in naming the parish "St. Luke's", its founding members defined our mission in the community. The service and special reception provided an opportunity to express gratitude and reflect on the past and present stewards of the church.

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

Our neighborhood and environment are changing and the church of our future needs to adapt to serve it. The thoroughfare in front of our church is being modernized in a multi-year project. Parking is becoming scarcer. The neighborhood and the city are strongly secular and this trend is intensifying. Traditional nuclear families are a shrinking minority. The tech boom has contributed to economic disparity. Poor and middle class families are being squeezed out of our neighborhood. Expensive condominiums have been built across the street. Homelessness is a growing challenge. Our outreach efforts to the local community are many and varied but less cohesive than we would like them to be. For example, in October we hosted a Halloween pumpkin patch in collaboration with a local merchant and a Halloween parade in conjunction with local preschools. We provided space for use as an election polling place. However, we are better at identifying relevant trends than we are at developing an effective response. We would like our new rector to help us revise and implement our strategic plan so we can be active, inspirational leaders in the community.

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

inspirational preacher, Parish Builder, Dedicated pastor, attentive administrator

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

St. Luke's worship style is characterized by a strong reverence for traditional Episcopal liturgy. Occasionally alternative liturgies are offered and reflect our spirit of exploration and curiosity. Three regular services are given each week: 1) Wednesday Celtic Healing at 7:30am; 2) Sunday Rite I at 8:00am; and 3) Sunday Rite II at 10:00am. Sunday Rite II service includes an adult choir and arrangements for organ. Each service is devoutly attended by a segment of the parish community and there is some overlap in attendees. Services are dignified, passionate, and feature an extensive passing of the peace. The Celtic service is intimate and meditative - attendees lay hands on one another, praying for healing. Sunday Rite I has regular attendance of about ten with parishioners often engaging in round-table discussion afterward. Sunday Rite II has the largest number of attendees and features a beautiful and thoughtfully researched music program, with scholarly annotations included in the service bulletin. A lively coffee hour follows our Rite II service. On the whole, parishioners aspire to deep spiritual awareness that is authentic and intellectually anchored.

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How do you practice incorporating others in ministry?

It doesn't matter if you've been at St. Luke's for 10 years or 10 minutes - we want everyone to be as involved as his or her time and inclination allows. We have a core group of volunteers who serve during the services and parish guilds, but we can never have too many. For example, our sexton's son has often helped the acolytes light candles but recently was offered a robe just his size and he is now an enthusiastic crucifer. Opportunities to participate in parish life are announced in church and written notices, but it is equally likely that someone will reach out with a phone call, email or in person to invite someone to participate in a ministry. One new member heard about plans for a Pumpkin Patch and the annual Halloween parade and reached out to our interim rector via Facebook to get involved. Not only was she excited to support and interact with the neighborhood children attending both events, her professional artistic talent was of great value decorating pumpkins which could be found around the church to welcome trick-or-treaters. St. Luke's values the diversity of talents and passions found in our community and we are keen to connect those talents with meaningful service.

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

St. Luke's parishioners have genuine, strong connections and friendships with one another - dating back months, years, and decades. There is a vibrant network within the parish of those who live in the same neighborhoods or communities, work and volunteer in the same areas or parish guilds, carpool and vacation together, or just never fail to catch up during the lively coffee hour. A St. Luke's tradition is the Birthday Church, which is a church-shaped, wooden piggy bank. Before the offertory, parishioners are invited to come to the chancel steps to share news of birthdays, anniversaries, transitions or celebrations and we all say a prayer of thanksgiving. One recent Sunday, there were no birthday church items, but a choir member saw that an ailing parishioner was in his usual pew that morning and called out that he was here. There was a spontaneous outpouring of warm and lengthy applause to welcome our friend back to church for the first time in months and, beaming, he clasped his hands over his head like he'd just won a marathon. We celebrate each other's victories, look out for each other, and cherish our environment of compassion, respect and love.

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

The St. Luke's Mother's Day Brunch is an annual event that recognizes the unique qualities and contributions of mothers and mother figures in the immediate and wider St. Luke's community. Hosted by two of our most dedicated volunteers, it represents a special day of celebration when our collective spirit of volunteerism and generosity is on full display. Requests for donations are made weeks in advance of our celebratory brunch with a focus on needs of infants - toys, diapers, tiny clothing and dental supplies, creating an opportunity for St. Luke's both to celebrate moms and to serve members of the greater community. The donations are collected for delivery to agencies serving low-income households. The joint focus of the event brings our attention to an appreciation of those most important in our lives and to the mission for which God constantly calls for us to serve each other and those in need around us.

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

St. Luke's parishioners are a diverse group of global citizens and they engage the world and the greater SF community in a variety of ways. Generosity of acumen, time, and stewardship are benchmarks of the parish. We are predominately a group of committed churchgoers who give and volunteer without expectation or need for formal recognition. The intellectual and active political engagement of many parishioners makes them advocates of a range of movements and initiatives of both the local and greater church community. For example, St. Luke's members serve as administrators of the Interfaith Food Pantry Program together with five other local parishes. Every fifth Saturday, members of each parish assemble at First Presbyterian Church to distribute hundreds of pounds of fresh food to about 300 low-income residents in our community. Alternatively, Rev. River Simms, in a ministry that spans twenty years, literally takes God's work to the drug and poverty embattled streets of our immediate neighborhood-delivering the Word and meals to some of the most vulnerable and disenfranchised of our city.

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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?

Five years ago, our parish made a difficult but far-reaching decision: we decided not to renew the lease of St. Luke's School, a preschool which our parish had originally founded in 1948 in the undercroft and which many generations of children of our parishioner families had attended. We took this step, after much soul-searching, in order to seek to welcome a preschool more consistent with our mission to heed Jesus' call to "feed my sheep." After reviewing a number of applicants, we chose to lease our space to a Head Start preschool, Kai Ming, which provides early childhood education and family support services for families whose incomes are below the poverty level, many of whom are Chinese immigrants living in Chinatown and the Tenderloin. Although Kai Ming is not church-affiliated, we have become more convinced over the years that this ministry has given us a great opportunity to live out gospel love and inclusiveness. Please contact parishioner Wylie Sheldon or the Church Office if you wish to learn more.

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

Stewardship is very important to us and we believe it is one of our strengths. Indeed, Jesus' call to "Feed my sheep" is our formal mission, and we see our church as an important legacy to be preserved and passed on - you can sense the history and tradition of much of it by simply attending one service, socializing at coffee hour, and strolling through the building. We preserve the liturgy, preserve the use of traditional music, and preserve the tradition of a convivial coffee hour. We actively welcome new attendees and members and cherish our longstanding ones. We've been good stewards of our buildings, other physical assets, and of finances, maintaining and improving facilities when necessary but avoiding ambitious, unneeded projects. We have a keen sense of the long history of our parish and see ourselves as another chapter in it.

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

A recent example of conflict took place last Advent, when our then-interim rector introduced a new practice for receiving communion. Usually at St. Luke's, communicants walk down the aisle of the nave, up the chancel steps, past the choir and kneel at our marble altar rail. Last year, just for the season of Advent, the interim instituted distributing communion standing at the foot of the chancel steps. For some, this was unusual but ultimately not of concern. For others, this change was gravely disruptive to their experience of the sacrament. Some voiced their dissent by simply not attending church for the season of Advent. Some voiced their concern and were startled that others didn't mind the change. Those who didn't mind were confused by the fuss. This episode highlighted some important truths about our congregation. Our congregation is passionate and diverse in thought. We are intellectually curious and interested in expanding our understanding of liturgy through new experiences; however, we need our clergy to help us understand why particular change is valuable, to include us in the decision and prepare us for the implementation of the change, however long it may last.

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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?

When change is conceived, driven and facilitated only by clergy, St. Luke's has a history of those changes lapsing following that individual's departure. One example was the recent resurrection of the youth choir under the leadership of a deacon with a passion for youth music. The dormancy of the children's choir had been much lamented, however while some found the monthly contribution of the 6-7 kids wonderful and if anything too infrequent, others found it disappointing compared to memories of the 'glory days' of a more robust youth choir at St. Luke's. With the departure of the deacon, the youth choir has again returned to dormancy. Another example was the mission trips implemented by our previous rector, which ended with the rector's departure. While we have demonstrated that we have difficulty self-sustaining such initiatives, we do have motivation and talent within the parish to try new things. We would like clergy to help us to nurture and support leadership within the congregation to develop and maintain practices and programs, rather than implementing activities which are dependent on an individual clergy-person.



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### Prior Incumbents

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Dana Corsello	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	2009-01	2017-05

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
Bruce Bayne	Rector / Vicar / Priest-in-Charge	1993-01	2008-01

Name	Position Title	Date Begun	Date Ended
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Church School	Number of Teachers/Leaders for Children School	Number of Students for Children School
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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
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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://stlukessf.org/we-welcome-you>

Media Links:

Online References:

Languages Significantly Represented:

**English**

Provide Worship or Classes in:

**English**

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### References

Bishop:

**The Rt. Rev. Marc Andrus**

Diocesan Transition Minister

**Denise Obando**

415-869-7804 [deniseo@diocal.org](mailto:deniseo@diocal.org)

Current Warden/Board Chair

**Rich McNally**

Previous Warden/Board Chair

Search Chair

**Chi Chi Madus & Betsy  
Munz**

Parish/Institution

Local Community Leader