Encounter the Risen Christ this Easter!

“He saw and believed.” (John 20:8)

“Being Christian is not a result of ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.” (Deus Caritas Est, Pope Benedict XVI)

Central to our belief in Jesus Christ, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, is His Resurrection. But first, after His death for those who closely followed Jesus, was an encounter with the empty tomb and the testimony of others that we hear in the Scriptures that did not do much for the apostles. With the death of Jesus, their hopes were dashed; they thought it was all over. Furthermore, they found security behind locked doors, and filled with fear, they were afraid that they, too, may share the same fate as their Master. I think we, too, are very similar. The transforming reality of the Resurrection is not to be found in the empty tomb, the testimony of someone else, or in the historical fact of the Resurrection. But rather in “the encounter with an event,” a person—the Risen Jesus. The power of the Resurrection transforms our blindness to be able to see and our doubt into an active faith. “To see and to believe” is to get to know the Risen Jesus and to experience His presence through the significance of the empty tomb.

We get to know Jesus by spending time with Him by regular reading and studying of the Bible, the teachings of the Church, and her sacred tradition. The living word of God transforms our lives and bears witness of God in the lives of others. It creates a dynamic of relationship based on trust and faith that Jesus indeed is the Risen Son of the living God the Father. Our faith and trust lead us to participate in the Resurrection by making us into a new creation. We build that relationship through trust and faith that Jesus indeed is the Risen Son of the living God the Father. Our faith and trust lead us to participate in the Resurrection by making us into a new creation. We build that relationship through an authentic prayer life and dedication. In prayer, we share our joys and sorrows with the God who cares. Prayer builds our relationship with Him. “The encounter” that led us to establish a relationship of faith and trust rooted in prayer compels us to follow Him. In spite of difficulties and limitations, doubt or simply when things do not make sense, we step out in faith to depend on God who loves us.

The love of the Risen Lord is experienced in a personal encounter with Him in the Sacraments, the Word, in our brothers and sisters, and within the longings of our hearts. Although the personal encounter with the Risen Jesus does not change human nature and the world all together, in reality we still will struggle with sin and consequences of our poor choices, but the power of the Resurrection transcends them to experience peace in the midst of adversities, joy in the midst of sorrow, and life in the midst of death. It is when we “see and believe” we receive an access to this incredibly powerful Resurrection power that opens new vision for the human family. “We don’t know what tomorrow holds but we know Who holds tomorrow.”

It is with great joy to welcome into full communion with the Catholic Church our brothers and sisters who journeyed through the RCIA and RCIC process. You are such a blessing to all of us. Your commitment, love and desire to join the Church is a powerful witness of the power of the Holy Spirit that our Church is well and alive. I pray that you will continue to grow in faith and love of God and each other. To the coordinators—Deacon Steve Arnold and Georgeanne Donnelly and your catechists—I am most grateful for your dedication in sharing and leading these new members into a closer relationship with the Risen Lord.

It is with great joy, thanksgiving, and gratitude to so many of our parishioners and benefactors to share with you that we have successfully completed the Roof Repair Project and the Stained Glass Window project titled, “Modern Day Saints.” We are so blessed to share in a community who is so generous, loving and supportive.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO)
COME HOME!
Have you been away from the Church?
Have you stopped attending Mass?
Have you missed out on the benefits of the Sacraments?
Please, come home! We welcome you back!
Here are ways to return:

- Attend Sunday Mass (5 PM Saturday, 8:15 and 11 AM Sunday)
- Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Saturday 3:30 PM, Wednesday immediately after 8:30 AM Mass, any time by appointment)
- Contact Father Andy with any questions at 282-0439x111 or email: frandy@stlukesparish.org
- Get your questions about the faith answered by attending one of our Parish programs
- or by checking out this website: www.catholicscomehome.org

St. Luke Community Kitchen
The St. Luke Community Kitchen is one of 4 churches working with The Kitchen of Clay County to provide hot lunches each Saturday at the Middleburg Senior Center. The majority of our guests are the needy or homeless of our community, but all are welcome.
St. Luke serves on the 2nd Saturday of each month. Our ministry provides the meat and cheese for sandwiches, and members provide hot soups brought in crock pots as there are no cooking facilities at the Center. We receive bread from Waste Not Want Not as well as fruit, salads, desserts and occasional bulk items.
There are 23 spots to fill each serving day, and we always welcome new members.
For more information or to join our ministry, contact Joyce Moak at JHM1963@bellsouth.net or (904)504-8312

Father Andy’s Easter Greeting (continued)
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)
To all who, in any way, extended their support—May the Risen Lord bless you abundantly!
On behalf of Fr. Xaviour, the staff, and the Pastor Advisory Board of St. Luke Parish, I wish you and your loved ones a most blessed and love-filled Easter. May the power of the Resurrection transform your hearts with the desire to get to know Jesus better this Easter so together we can share the power of the Resurrection with others.

A Blessed Easter!
With prayers,
Fr. Andy
Upcoming Events!

March 31
Lenten Mission 7PM

April 1
Lenten Mission 7PM

April 2
Lenten Mission 7PM

April 3
Lenten Mission 7PM

April 4
Lenten Penance Service 7PM

April 6
Mass for the Nation 8:30AM

April 13
Senior Game Day 10AM
Food Distribution 10AM-noon

April 26
Bingo 7PM

April 27
Men’s Prayer Breakfast 8AM

May 4
Mass for the Nation 8:30AM

May 18
Senior Game Day 10AM
Food Distribution 10AM-noon
Spring Fling Fundraiser 7PM

May 24
Bingo 7PM

May 25
Men’s Prayer Breakfast 8AM

June 1
Mass for the Nation 8:30AM

June 15
Senior Game Day 10AM
Food Distribution 10AM-noon

June 22
Men’s Prayer Breakfast 8AM

June 28
Bingo 7PM

July 6
Mass for the Nation 8:30AM

July 20
Senior Game Day 10AM
Food Distribution 10AM-noon

July 26
Bingo 7PM

July 27
Men’s Prayer Breakfast 8AM

August 3
Mass for the Nation 8:30AM

August 17
Senior Game Day 10AM
Food Distribution 10AM-noon

August 21
Men’s Prayer Breakfast 8AM

August 23
Bingo 7PM

St. Luke Catholic Church
Holy Week Schedule - April 15 ~ 19, 2019

Daily Mass ~ Monday and Tuesday ~ 8:30am

HOLY THURSDAY
Morning Prayer ~ 9:00am
Mass of the Lord’s Supper ~ 7:00pm
Night Prayer ~ 11:00pm

GOOD FRIDAY OF THE LORD’S PASSION
Morning Prayer ~ 9:00am
Living Stations of the Cross ~ 3:00pm
Celebration of the Lord’s Passion ~ 7:00pm
Night Prayer ~ 11:00pm

HOLY SATURDAY
Morning Prayer ~ 9:00am
Blessing of the Food ~ 3:00pm
Mass of the Easter Vigil ~ 8:30pm

EASTER SUNDAY ~ THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD
Masses ~ 8:15am and 11:00am
Fiscal Year 2019 Financial Update from the Finance Council

Below is a summary of our finances through the Second Quarter of Fiscal Year 2019, which ended on December 31, 2018.

Offertory income came in at budget while Debt Reduction income came in 4.14% above budget. We ended with a net income of $5,692.43, which is extremely close to budget.

On the expense side of the ledger, our major expenses for the most part were in line with their budgets. At the mid-year, we had $210,515.94 in our operating account, $208,858.69 in our growth fund account, and $526,625.24 deposited with the diocese for our hurricane deductible, our maintenance reserve, and our roof repair project.

Thank you for your generosity, support and making St. Luke your home. Please continue your financial support as a sign of our mutual responsibility to provide the resources needed for us to fulfill our parish mission. May God Bless you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>TOTAL BUDGET</th>
<th>YEAR TO DATE (07/2018-12/2018)</th>
<th>PERCENTAGE OF BUDGET</th>
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<tr>
<td>OFFERTORY COLLECTIONS</td>
<td>$1,033,000.00</td>
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<td>TAX EXEMPT BUILDING FUND COLLECTION</td>
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<td>Collections (Causes within our Diocese)</td>
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<td>NON-PAROCHIAL- OTHER OUTSIDE DIOCESE</td>
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<td>PAMPHLETS, VOTIVE STANDS, REL. GOODS</td>
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<td>RENTS</td>
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<td>YOUTH GROUP</td>
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<td>STIPENDS</td>
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<td>GRANTS</td>
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<td>POOR BOX</td>
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<td>FLOWERS</td>
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<td>OTHER MINISTRY INCOME</td>
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<tr>
<td>PARISH OUTREACH INCOME</td>
<td>$25,600.00</td>
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<td>DONATIONS FOR A SPECIFIC PURPOSE</td>
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<td>TOTAL INCOME</td>
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<td>Category</td>
<td>Total 2020</td>
<td>Total 2019</td>
<td>% Change</td>
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<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>----------</td>
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<tr>
<td>EXPENDITURES</td>
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<td>SALARIES- RESIDENT CLERGY</td>
<td>$63,400.00</td>
<td>$32,699.94</td>
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<td>Clergy Benefits</td>
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<td>MASS STIPEND EXPENSE</td>
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<td>PRIEST HEALTH INSURANCE EXPENSE</td>
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<td>PARISH SALARIES</td>
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<td>PARISH HEALTH INSURANCE EXPENSE</td>
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<td>REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE</td>
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<td>ELECTRICITY/ WATER/ FUEL</td>
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<td>INSURANCE EXPENSE-PROP &amp; CAS/WORK COMP</td>
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<td>TELEPHONE AND TECHNOLOGY</td>
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<td>SOCIAL MINISTRY</td>
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<td>$8,032.15</td>
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<td>FAMILY FAITH PROGRAM</td>
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<td>BAZAAR AND OTHER FUNDRAISERS</td>
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<td>FISH FRY EXPENSE</td>
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<tr>
<td>ST. LUKE'S FEAST DAY &amp; PICNIC EXPENSE</td>
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<td>INTEREST PAID</td>
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<td>RENTS AND EQUIPMENT LEASES</td>
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<td>PARISH SHARING PAYMENTS</td>
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<td>NON-PAROCHIAL COLLECTIONS</td>
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<td>VISITING MISSIONARY EXPENSE</td>
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<td>$247.40</td>
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<td>SCHOOL EXPENSES PAID BY PARISH</td>
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<tr>
<td>MISCELLANEOUS</td>
<td>$2,000.00</td>
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<td>LITURGICAL SUPPLIES</td>
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<td>YOUTH GROUP EXPENSES</td>
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<tr>
<td>FLOWER EXPENSE</td>
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<td>0.00%</td>
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<td>0.00%</td>
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<td>DUES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS</td>
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<tr>
<td>LEGAL AND PROFESSIONAL FEES</td>
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<td>PAYROLL EXPENSE</td>
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<tr>
<td>OFFICE SUPPLIES AND POSTAGE</td>
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<td>LAITY STIPEND EXPENSE</td>
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<tr>
<td>OTHER MINISTRY EXPENSE</td>
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<td>$2,852.48</td>
<td>32.77%</td>
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<tr>
<td>PARISH OUTREACH EXPENSE</td>
<td>$34,175.00</td>
<td>$21,047.32</td>
<td>61.59%</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</td>
<td>$1,420,200.00</td>
<td>$668,471.80</td>
<td>47.07%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

NET INCOME                                   $5,692.43
The 2018-2019 year has been flying by at Annunciation, with many happenings at the school for students and families. But certainly the progress on the building of the new gymnasium continues to be the biggest news.

It is very obvious the minute one drives by or looks over at the school that it will not be too long before the gym is finished and ready for use by our community. The construction is expected to be complete by early June, as of this writing, which means that it will be fully operational for the coming school year. Annunciation will soon announce a date for the official blessing and dedication of the gym by Bishop Estěvez, and plans will also be made for tours of the new facility and some fun events during the summer. We again thank the parishioners of St. Luke for their wonderful support of this fantastic addition to our school, through their financial generosity and constant prayers. Please watch the St. Luke bulletin and our website, annunciationcatholic.org, for real time updates.

Other school updates include academic news: Carolyn Harris and Sophie Abt competed in the state Knights of Columbus Spelling Bee in Kissimmee in February, and Carolyn won FIRST PLACE for all 7th and 8th Graders! Nathan Arnold won the school Spelling Bee and competed in the Clay County competition in late January, making it to the 5th round. Nathan will also compete in the diocesan speech contest, hosted by Annunciation in late March, representing our school along with Ehan Shah, in a tough battle against students from other Catholic schools who will talk on “Challenges Youth Face.” Geography Bee winners were Ryan Lydon, 1st, Quint Jamieson, 2nd, and Sidney Cobb, 3rd, with the next level of competition at Bishop Snyder High School. Annunciation also sent teams to the regional Mathcounts Day, and is in preparation for another diocesan event, The Battle of the Books.

In sports, while we are currently at the start of the softball season for both boys and girls, we also enjoyed a good year for girls volleyball. The team made it to the playoffs, and the coed soccer team made it to the championship game, losing to Blessed Trinity in a heartbreaker.

In the most important area of our students’ lives, their spiritual growth, our 7th Graders went on their annual gleaning field trip to Hastings and had a migrant worker experience. Students actually go into the fields there and pick vegetables, usually broccoli, and learn what a hard job it is to do such work, allowing them to appreciate the individuals who do it and to be more grateful for the food they see on their dinner tables. Annunciation joined with Catholic students around the country to celebrate the yearly Catholic Schools Week in late January. Events included a STEM Open House, an International Rosary, Grandparents Day, and Field Day. Even though the week is organized for the enjoyment of students and their families, there is still time to think of others who are less fortunate. So, Annunciation students collected breakfast cereal, bringing in over 450 boxes. The Student Council sponsored ‘Days of Kindness’ for the school in February, asking students to give compliments, to make others smile, and to sit with different classmates at lunch in order to spread friendship and fun. The Student Council officers will also attend the Eucharistic Congress for the procession and Mass on Saturday, and our chorus will also sing at the Mass, showing our support for this annual diocesan event.

At Annunciation we understand that it is the dedicated support of our three parishes, St. Luke, St. Catherine, and Sacred Heart, that is a major reason for our success in all that we do for our students and their families. We thank you with much gratitude, especially as we look ahead to the completion of our new gymnasium…it’s almost here!

Victoria Farrington
Principal
“Bringing Christ’s Mission to the World, One Child at a Time!”

2019-2020 Full-Time Rates
(6:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.)
Infants: $245/week
One’s: $235/week
Two’s: $215/week
Three’s: $185/week
VPK Wrap: $150/week

Part-Time Preschool Rates
Two Year Olds M-F 6:30-12:00 $160/week
Two Year Olds M-F 9:00-12:00 $135/week
Three Year Olds M-F 6:30-12:00 $135/week
Three Year Olds M-F 9:00-12:00 $120/week
VPK Students M-F 6:30-12:00 $85/week

Phone: 904.406.9510
Fax: 904.406.9514
Email: director@stlukechildcare.org
JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF FUN AND FELLOWSHIP
AT THE
ST. LUKE SPRING FLING FUNDRAISER

May 18, 2019
after the 5:00 p.m. Mass

FOOD * DJ*
CHILDREN’S ACTIVITIES AND GAMES*
LIVE AUCTION

Pulled Pork Dinners — $10 individual, $30 per family
Beer, wine and soft drinks available for sale
Dinner tickets on sale after Masses beginning April 13
and in the Parish Office

RAFFLE DRAWING FOR THE
2019 VOLKSWAGEN TIGUAN S!
Please visit our website for more information
and to purchase raffle tickets.

Nursery available (4 and under)
Traveling Chalice Ministry

The purpose of the Traveling Chalice Ministry is to encourage families to pray and promote vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. The consecrated Chalice is a tangible reminder of this special intention for the Church. The Second Vatican Council highlights the responsibility of the laity to pray for and support vocations. This urgent call has been strongly affirmed in the writings and addresses of both Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI.

Praying for vocations is the most powerful way to support vocations. A vocation is a call from the Holy Spirit, a gift from God that is nurtured in prayer. When we pray for vocations, we lift up to our Father those men and women whom He is calling to follow Him in a very special way. We hope that those who bring the cup home will continue to pray daily for vocations.

Please prayerfully consider taking home the Chalice for one week and joining our parish in praying for vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate, and Religious Life. Prayers to recite are included.

To secure a date for this very special Ministry, please contact:
Debbie-Anne Armoogam
Email: TravelingChalice@aol.com
Mobile: 203-645-2756

St. Luke CCW Supports Diocesan “Born Free” Program

Prior to Mother’s Day and Father’s Day, St. Luke’s Council of Catholic Women have available, for a small donation, Mass Cards as a way to remember your parents on these special days. On each of these special days, your Mass cards are presented along with the gifts at the altar, and the Mass is celebrated for them.

Your donations are used for the Diocesan "Born Free" Program. This program serves many purposes but focuses on the dignity of life.

♦ Immigration & Legalization fosters and facilitates family unity, freedom, and citizenship to eligible foreign-born persons.
♦ Human Life & Dignity Office promotes the dignity of all life from conception to natural death. Every life is made in the image of God with intrinsic value, despite stage of development or social condition.
♦ Adoption Services carries out the social mission of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of St. Augustine by serving and advocating for vulnerable families and individuals of any race, religion, or national origin. It also serves women with unplanned pregnancies to protect the life of the child, provide care and nurturing for women and children, and building up of families through adoption.

For an in-depth look at the above-mentioned programs and more, go to the Diocese of St. Augustine homepage under Outreach, Lay Organizations, Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, Born Free Program.

As always we give thanks to and prayers for St. Luke parishioners for their generous support of our charitable efforts

St. Luke’s CCW will have Mass Cards available for Mother’s Day on April 13 & 14, and April 27 & 28, 2019 following all Masses.

Father’s Day Cards will be available on June 1 & 2, and June 8 & 9, 2019 following all Masses.

Our Lady of Good Counsel, pray for us.

Jeannie Moore
CCW Member
WIN ME!!

2019 Volkswagen Tiguan S

*(winner must pay all taxes, tags and fees)*

Drawing - Saturday, May 18, 2019

Winner need not be present to win

Donation $50.00 each

Only 1,000 tickets sold!

Tickets available after Mass, online and at the Parish Office.

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**St. Luke Senior Support Ministry**


Among the speakers were Cliff Evans with the St. Augustine Diocese Catholic Foundation, William O'Leary, Atty., Tristan Morroni, Jacksonville Memory Gardens, and Deacon Edward Wolf.

Fr. Andy opened the program with prayer and introductions. A very generous lunch provided by Bojangles was sponsored by Jacksonville Memory Gardens.

This event was well-attended and provided a tremendous amount of valuable information for our Seniors and Elderly.

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**Phase Two of the Stained Glass Window Project**

Phase two of the St. Luke Stained Glass Window Project is construction of a bell tower. The lower level of the facility will house our new Religious Articles Gift Shop. Construction will begin soon.
Thanks to our volunteers who made this a night to remember for those in our community with special needs! Each person who came down the red carpet was treated with the dignity and respect afforded to the Children of God! We thank you for this beautiful witness!
Submissions to St. Luke Link are welcome and may be edited for length or clarity.

We are grateful to our fine sponsors!

St. Luke Catholic Church
1606 Blanding Blvd.
Middleburg, Florida 32068

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED