

Saint Luke's Ministry Directory

Saint Luke's Parish is a community of God's people called Church - empowered and growing in the Spirit of God. We are sent forth by that Spirit to love, serve and bring others to Christ. As a family of common faith we are to embrace our brothers and sisters, regardless of race, age, or social status and welcome each for their God-given gifts and talents and encourage the use of those gifts.

Liturgical Committee

Liturgical Committee

Promotes and strengthens the liturgical life of the parish by working closely with Father Bryan to plan the liturgy and other events, coordinate volunteers and decorate the church in accordance with the Church's liturgical seasons. Volunteers are always welcomed and much appreciated.

Fr Bryan Ernest - 308.284.2391

Church Linens

This ministry keeps the church purificators, towels, cassocks and other church linens laundered and in good condition on a regular basis.

Karla Eddie – 308.284.0801

MaryLou Heelan – 308.284.4277

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

During Masses, Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist assist with the distribution of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, to the parish community. This ministry is open to all adults and confirmed youth.

Marietta Johnson - 308.284.6403

Greeters and Ushers

Greeting parishioners and visitors prior to the start of Mass, our Greeters and Ushers assure a welcoming presence and orderly seating for all who come to share in the Liturgy. Prior to Mass the Greeters chose a family or group for the presentation of the gifts at the altar. During Mass the Ushers are available to respond to emergencies or assist anyone in need. They also take up the collection and ready it for presentation with the other gifts at the altar. When Mass is over they hand out the bulletins and assist wherever needed.

New Contact Needed

Ministry to Shut-ins

On Sunday mornings, Ministers of the Eucharist for Shut-ins take the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ along with prayer and fellowship to those in the hospital and elder-care facilities and/or who are ill, disabled or home-bound. This ministry is open to all adults and confirmed youth.

Marietta Johnson - 308.284.6403

Music Ministry

Members of the Music Ministry include instrumentalists, vocalists, and cantors; they coordinate the music for Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses to provide the appropriate music for the Liturgy. Groups rotate on a regular schedule and include both Adult and Youth Choirs. The Adult Choir is open to any adult and the Youth Choir is open to any youth in grades 4-12 who enjoy singing in a choir.

Carol Kraus - 308.284.6473

Readers and Commentators

Readers proclaim the designated scriptures for Saturday evening, Sunday morning and Holy Day Masses. Commentators announce the focus of the readings and liturgical theme; they also read the petitions and special announcements.

Paul Foy – 308.284.6883

Sacristan

The Sacristan assists with preparations for Mass insuring that everything necessary for the celebration is available. Duties include the ringing of the bells to mark the start of celebration, the placement of chalices, ciboria, linens, and oils or any other duty as directed by Father.

Jim Lempke – 308.289.1688

Liturgy Environment

Throughout the year the church is decorated in accordance with the liturgical seasons. This ministry involves putting up, taking down and caring for the decorations for the church and sanctuary.

Mary Weber – 308.284.4705

Kay Gamet – 308.284.6699

Servers

Servers are responsible for the lighting of the altar candles and other supporting tasks during the Mass. Servers, starting during their 4th grade year, assist during daily, weekend and Holy Day Masses.

Fr. Bryan – 308.284.3196

Devotion

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

On the first Friday of each month, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament follows the morning Mass. Devotion is open to all parishioners, and parishioners are encouraged to sign-up to keep an hour of prayer throughout the day, until Benediction at 3:00 P.M.

Clara Erlewine – 308.284.2438

Roberta Hildebrand – 308.284.3958

Rosary Group

Wednesdays, following the 8:00 daily Mass, parishioners gather in the Marian Chapel to pray the rosary together. Everyone is welcome and fellowship often follows.

Children's Rosary Group

A Children's Rosary group gathers once a month on the 1st weekend of each month. Children ages 5 and up are welcome to pray with us. We will gather at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday evening and 9:30 a.m. on Sunday. All adults are welcome to join us in praying this beloved devotion.

Jean McMillan – 308.289.2980

Julie Peterson – 308.289.2285

Stations of the Cross

During Lent, on Friday evenings, the Stations of the Cross are venerated. Time for personal reflection and prayer is encouraged.

Adult Religious Education and Faith Formation

The mission of our Faith Formation program is to encourage and assist our parish community in cultivating a closer relationship with God, as well as a deeper and lifelong understanding of the Catholic faith through sacred scripture and the magisterial teaching of the church. We strive to create an atmosphere of personal and community growth where all generations are encouraged to learn how the Gospel is relevant to their daily lives and to actively participate in the life and mission of the Catholic Church.

Bible Study

Bible study for parishioners, with each annual study determined by the participants; these studies have included the Bible in a Year, The Chronological Bible and The New Testament. Participants study individually, meeting for support, monthly on the 3rd Sunday for question and answer discussions.

Paul Foy - 308.284.6883

Gary Schreiner - 308.284.2290

The Great Adventure Catholic Bible Study Program

This is a three part Catholic Bible learning system written by Jeff Cavins. This program demonstrates how all the books of the Bible fit together arranging key people, places, and events of scripture in a dynamic chronological order. Seeing the story of the Bible unfold in this manner makes the Bible come to life. This program is for adults and young adults and runs September through April. Currently the group is studying the second section, *Matthew: the King and His Kingdom*.

Lori Beckius - 308.284.3196 | lori@kccatholics.com

Women's Religious Studies Group

Tuesday mornings, starting each fall, this in-home study group for women interested in reviewing and discussing chosen Bible topics. The focus of study is determined annually by group members.

Jean Havermann – 308.284.1284

Lenten Study Groups

Six week Lenten Study for small groups of parishioners meeting in private homes.

Lori Beckius – 308.284.3196 | lori@kccatholics.com

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Study covers a five-stage program for educating participants for admission into the Catholic Faith. Classes begin in the fall and meet weekly until the Easter Vigil when those desiring membership are taken into the church. Catholics wanting to refresh their faith knowledge are also invited to attend.

Rev. Bryan Ernest - 308.284.3196

That Man Is You

That Man Is You is an interactive multimedia men's program focused upon the authentic development of male leadership. The content of the program brings current social and medical science together in harmony with teachings of the Catholic Church and the wisdom of the saints to develop a man fully alive in his relationship with God, his spouse and his children.

Currently on Hold

Youth Religious Education and Faith Formation

Catechist (Religious Ed Teacher) or Aide

Helping our youth to grow their relationship with God and their knowledge of the Catholic Faith is one of the most precious gifts you can give. Support and training are provided. We are always in need of catechists and aides. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a catechist or aide please contact the Faith Formation Office.

Lori Beckius – 308.284.3196 | lori@kccatholics.com

Catholic Youth Ministry Leadership Team

The CYM Leadership Team is responsible for organizing and planning faith, service, fundraising and social activities for our middle school and high school youth. Utilizing strong leadership skills, fellowship and example we encourage youth participation in all activities, support them in their faith journey, and strive to foster a desire to minister to others. If you are interested in becoming a part of our team, please contact the Faith Formation Office.

Lori Beckius – 308.284.3196 | lori@kccatholics.com
Gail Schreiter – 308.289.4433 | gbschreit@gmail.com

Catholic Youth Ministries

CYM is an opportunity for students in grades 6-12 to participate in faith, service, fundraising and social activities. CYM teaches youth how to live their faith through leadership, fellowship and service to others.

Lori Beckius – 308.284.3196 | lori@kccatholics.com

Faith Formation - Grades K-12

The mission of Saint Luke's youth Faith Formation program is to help our youth cultivate a closer relationship with God as well as a deeper and lifelong understanding of the Catholic faith through sacred scripture and the magisterial teaching of the church. All classes are based on Catholic doctrine; the building blocks for receiving church sacraments, for learning and living the Catholic Faith. Faith Formation classes for grades K-12 are held on Wednesdays during the school year. K-5 classes meet after school in the classrooms at Saint Luke's school; 6-12 meet in the evenings in the church.

Lori Beckius – 308.284.3196 | lori@kccatholics.com

Sacramental Preparation and Celebration

Baptism Preparation

Baptism Preparation Class helps parents of children that are to be baptized cultivate a better understanding of the theological, parental and community aspects of the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism in the Catholic Church. Along with providing guidance for choosing godparents, classes emphasize the importance the parent's active participation of their faith. As the parents, you are the first teachers of your child in the practice of the faith. We must teach what we believe and practice what we teach.

Fr. Bryan Ernest – 308.284.3196

First Reconciliation / First Eucharist

Reconciliation and Holy Communion, the Eucharist, is the completion of Christian initiation. Preparation for these sacraments generally takes place during the second grade Faith Formation class on Wednesdays at 4:30 PM and in our Catholic School during the school year. First Communion Sunday is the first Sunday after Easter each year. For more information or if you have a child who is beyond the second grade but has not received their First Reconciliation and First Communion we encourage you to contact us.

Lori Beckius – 308.284.3196 | lori@kccatholics.com

Confirmation

The journey of Christian initiation which began at Baptism is strengthened in the Sacrament of Confirmation. Preparation and celebration are provided for all youth who are juniors in high school and extends into their senior year. Confirmation Preparation assists young adults of the parish in making their personal commitments to the Catholic Faith. The mission of service is a strong component.

Lori Beckius – 308.284.3196 | lori@kccatholics.com

Marriage Validation / Marriage Preparation

Marriage in the Catholic Church is a sacramental unity. A 4 month preparation, it is a blessing that may help your marriage relationship. Were you married outside of the Catholic Church? Were you married by a judge? Would you like your marriage blessed in the Church at this time?

Fr. Bryan Ernest – 308.284.3196

Receptions/Celebrations

Celebrations are an important part of parish community. You may offer your stewardship of time and talent in a variety of ways – providing cake and cookies, set-up, decorating, serving or clean-up.

Carolyn Straub – 308.284.2645

Social Outreach and Prayer

Blood Drive

The Knights of Columbus help with set up and members of Saint Luke's provide cookies on request for the volunteer blood donors at the Red Cross Blood Drive.

Al Faesser – 308.284.6287

Card Ministry

This group would be responsible for sending greeting cards and notes to shut-ins, as well as parish acknowledgements of anniversaries, new birth's, baptism, birthdays, confirmation and other milestones.

Karen Ostrcil – 308.289.4941

Christmas Caroling

Organized by the Hospitality Committee, Christmas Caroling is a joyful hayride around town to sing carols to shut-in parishioners, residents of Indian Hills Manor nursing home and WellLife assisted living facilities. Followed by a soup supper hosted by volunteers and committee members who donate, prepare and serve the carolers; a free-will donation is requested. All individuals, couples and families are invited to attend.

Cindy Regier – 308.284.8493
Carolyn Straub – 308.284.2645

Easter Sunday Egg Hunt

An Easter Egg Hunt follows the 10:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Mass on the south side of the church and in St. Luke's Park. Donations of plastic eggs are accepted and appreciated year round.

Jean Wunschel - 308.289.5061

Easter Sunday Fellowship

Donuts and rolls are served in the vestibule of the church following Easter Sunday Mass. All parishioners and visitors are welcome to enjoy this social gathering. Donations and volunteers to help serve are always needed and welcomed.

Julie Peterson – 308.289.2285
Jason Krajewski – 308.726.5019

Food Pantry

The local Food Pantry provides assistance to low income families and others who have emergency needs. Special food drives for the benefit of the food pantry are organized throughout the year by different ministry groups. Parishioners are also encouraged to donate a "Can a Week" for distribution to the local area food pantry for those in need of food. Funds, food and food donations are always needed and very much appreciated. Parish members are encouraged to volunteer to help whenever possible.

For Information, contact Kay Gamet – 308.284.6699

Funeral Committee

The Funeral Committee plans and serves a dinner for family and friends following funerals. Parishioners are contacted to provide salads or desserts to accompany the meat, potato and vegetable dishes prepared by the committee. Volunteer help is always needed and appreciated. Although dinner is served courtesy of Saint Luke's, donations are accepted but never required.

Maggie Cutkosky - 308.284.0111

School Supply Drive

School Supply Drive – currently established for mid August through early September

Sister Loretta – 308.284.481

Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry that builds simple and affordable homes in partnership with those in need of decent housing. Families purchase the homes at no profit through interest free loans

Maintenance Volunteers

Maintenance of the church, convent, rectory, school and park is a continuous effort. Volunteers are needed to help with various projects and maintenance of the church and grounds.

Jim Lempke - 308.289.1688

Meals on Wheels

Volunteer drivers from Saint Luke's parish transport meals from the Senior Center to people in their homes. Our parish is responsible for 6 weeks of service a year and volunteers are always needed and welcomed.

Audrey Harris - 308.284.9867

Ministry to Newcomers

A welcoming committee, this ministry attempts to make contact with all newcomers to extend a warm and friendly welcome to the parish community. A brochure outlining the different ministries of the parish is given to all newcomers to encourage them to become involved with parish life.

Allison Jones – 308.284.0136
Maggie Cutkosky – 308.284.0111

Natural Family Planning (NFP)

NFP is a medically safe and highly effective method of postponing or achieving pregnancy.

Laurie Stadler – 308.534.3905

Office Volunteer

We need parish volunteers to help with large mailings as well as various other office/clerical needs. If you would like to be included on a call list of volunteers, please call the church office.

Joan Krause – 308.284.3196

Parish Photographer

The parish photographer will help take photos of parish events such as Christmas Caroling, Egg Hunt, Fall Festival and any other event where photos of the event can be used for the bulletin, newsletter or website. A group of people willing to share their talents would be ideal and would allow for coverage of all parish events. You do not need to be a trained photographer to volunteer for this ministry.

John Gamet - 308.284.6699
Joe Straub – 308.284.2645
Whitey Cutkosky – 308.284.0111

Parish Social

Potluck socials are a quarterly event designed to bring the parish together for fun and fellowship, laughter and joy. Dates and times are announced in the bulletin, each parishioner is asked to bring their own table service, a side dish and a dessert.

Carolyn Straub – 308-284-2645

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Men and women are needed to volunteer time, prayer and/or materials to construct blankets for the sick. It requires individuals to commit to making these special blankets that will ultimately be blessed at a Mass prior to being distributed to anyone with a debilitating illness, whether adult or child. It is not necessary that you know how to sew, and it is not necessary that you be present while blankets are being made. Prayer is the most important and can be said at your place of work, while driving, upon waking, before sleeping, before and after meals, any time! Since prayer is said during the making of the blankets and throughout the days, whoever receives a blanket will be blanketed in prayer.

Kay Gamet – 308.284.6699

Julie Perterson – 308.284.6429 | 308.289.2285

Prayer Chain

Volunteers participate in a calling tree to pray for anyone in need of prayer.

Joanie Halligan – 308.284.2330

Project Rachel

This ministry is for the healing of those who have experienced abortion.

Fr. Bryan Ernest – 308.284.3196

Rest Home Birthday Cakes

Three birthday cakes are taken to Indian Hills each month from local churches. St. Luke's donates three cakes in November.

Audrey Harris – 308.284.9867

Serra Club

Named after Blessed Junipero Serra – the purpose of this ministry is to foster and promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life, and to support priests in their ministry. The Diocese of Grand Island has formed Serra Clubs in the Grand Island and North Platte areas. If you are interested in becoming involved in this organization you may contact:

Marty and Lisa Troshynski – 308.532.1898

Saint Martha's Ministry

The mission of Saint Martha's Ministry is to provide meals as needed for our priests and sisters. The goal is to reach out and contribute to the care of our local priest and religious, who give of themselves selflessly, serving our parish and school. Like the two holy women in the Gospels, we seek to have the hands of Martha and the heart of Mary as we follow Jesus' example of service.

Jean Krajewski – 308.289.6766

Website Administrator

The administrator maintains the website for the church and school; keeping information current and accessible to the parish community. All teachers, ministries, groups and committees are encouraged to contribute information about their groups, schedules, upcoming events, photos, etc., for publication on the website.

Lori Beckius – 308.284.3196 | lori@kccatholics.com

Pro-Life Ministry

It is the mission of St. Luke's Pro-Life Ministry to nurture, within our parish community, an awareness of the dignity and sanctity of all human life, from conception to natural death. We encourage and welcome our parish family to join us in our commitment to prayer, education and action in defense of life. Our ministry is faithful to the teaching of the Catholic Church on all life issues including abortion, euthanasia, infanticide, assisted suicide, and stem cell research.

Pro-Life Committee

Pro-Life activities at Saint Luke's include participation in any community-wide prolife activities such as the Baby Bottle Boomerang and the annual Baby Shower to benefit Ogallala Women's Resource Center. We also participate in the annual "Walk for Life" and other prolife prayer walks held in surrounding communities.

Barb Meismer – 308.726.2006

Baby Bottle Boomerang

An annual fundraiser to benefit the Ogallala Women's Resource Center starts each year on Mother's Day with the distribution of baby bottles. Parishioners are asked to take a bottle home and fill it with coins, bills and checks. Then return the baby bottle for collection on Father's Day.

Barb Meismer – 308.726.2006

Parish Organizations

Ladies of Saint Luke's

The Ladies of Saint Luke's is formerly known as the Altar Society. This organization is the local chapter of the Council of Catholic Women. A service and social group for the women of the parish, the Ladies of Saint Luke's is the hub for all other committees, assisting these committees to meet their needs for volunteers, baked goods and other foods. The Ladies of Saint Luke's collects dues annually to support a wide variety of services provided to the parish including Christmas Bonuses for the Parish Staff, Youth Activities, keeping the kitchen stocked with supplies, etc. The Ladies of Saint Luke's is a critical component of the parish.

Cherry Schreiner – 308.284.2290

Nancy Hollmann – 308.284.9804

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is an advisory committee to the pastor on financial matters.

St. Luke's School Endowment Trust, Inc.

This was established in 1985 to insure a sound financial base for the future of St. Luke's School. It provides additional funding to supplement the present parish subsidy and student tuition. The Endowment –Trust is arranged to accept and make available to the school any gift. All gifts are tax deductible under IRC 501(c)(3)

Fr Bryan Ernest 308-284-3196

Knights of Columbus

In the Knights of Columbus tradition, the local Council 4979 of Saint Luke's lends support to the church at both the diocesan and local levels. It provides volunteers and offers funds for parish projects and the Catholic schools.

Paul Ruhlman, Grand Knight – 308.289.2444
Al Faesser, Financial Secretary – 308.284.6287

Magnificat

Magnificat is a ministry to Catholic women. Magnificat is held about every three months on or around a feast of Mary, and is celebrated with prayer, a meal, and a guest speaker.

Connie Frosh – 308.289.5995

Parish Council

The Parish Council is an advisory council to the pastor in matters regarding parish affairs. Members are nominated by parishioners and serve a 3 year term.

Fund Raising Activities**Annual Fall Festival**

A traditional turkey dinner, including potatoes, dressing, salads and desserts deliciously prepared and served by parishioners for members of Saint Luke's and the local community. This is a major parish fund raising event that also includes a raffle, activities and a country store. Carry out and meal delivery is offered.

Kate Diaz – 308.284.6268

Country Store

The country store accepts donations of homemade jams & jellies, canned goods and handmade items, fall and holiday decorations. Proceeds help fund the Prayer Shawl and Baptismal Blanket Ministry as well as the Mission Fund.

Julie Peterson 308.284.6429
Jason Krajewski – 308.726.5019

Interdenominational Lenten Service and Luncheon

An annual Ecumenical Lenten Service organized by the Ministerial Association is held each week during Lent, over the noon hour, at the United Church of Christ-Congregational Church in downtown Ogallala. Local pastors are assigned to lead each weekly service which is followed by a luncheon prepared and served by the women of that pastor's church. Donations of relishes and desserts are requested to complete the menu; there is a suggested donation of \$3.00 for the meal.

Audrey Harris – 308.284.9867

Lenten Fish Fry

A meal of fish and chips, deliciously prepared and hosted by the Knights of Columbus, is served on Fridays during Lent, immediately following the veneration of the Stations of the Cross. To compliment the meal of fish and chips, the families of Saint Luke's prepare and donate salads and desserts. All members of the parish and the local community are invited to attend. There is a charge for this scrumptious meal.

Winter Family Festival

The Winter Family Festival is an annual event to raise funds for Saint Luke's School. Held at the Fair Grounds Exhibit Hall there are fun and games for every member of the family. Both live and silent auctions are the highlight of the event.

Sister Loretta – 308.284.4841

Diocesan Organizations and Retreats

Catholics Encounter Christ (CEC)

These retreats, formerly known as "Cursillo", are offered by the diocese for men and women two to four times a year. They will be advertised in our bulletin and on our website when they are offered.

Kathy Boroff – 308.381.7206
Greg Viergutz – 308.537.3807
Fr. Antony Thekkekora – 308.636.2421

Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW)

Supports and empowers Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. It offers an annual two-day assembly at the Nebraska 4-H Camp at Halsey, Nebraska and also provides regional meetings.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter

Couples seeking to renew their marriage can attend a weekend experience and grow in their relationship.

Fr. Bryan Ernest – 308.284.3196

Going Bananas for Jesus

Going Bananas for Jesus is a great way for youth to make new friends and celebrate their Catholic faith. The weekend includes keynote speakers, a variety of breakout sessions, music, dancing, prayer, food, fun, fellowship and concludes with the celebration of Eucharist.

John Burks – 308.532.2707 | jburks@gidiocese.org

Higher Ground

This is a week-long retreat for high school youth to experience a Christian Community through prayer, scripture and activities. The activities provide an enjoyable opportunity for young people to develop a better sense of self, to build positive relationships with others and to grow closer to God. Open to all youth who will be juniors and seniors in high school.

John Burks – 308-532-2707 | jburks@gidiocese.org

Higher Ground II

Higher Ground II, also a week-long retreat calls participants to a deeper experience of prayer, scripture and community interaction. The intent of the program is to help youth discover that the church needs their gifts and talents. They are encouraged to reflect on their call to greater participation in their parish communities and challenged to expand their global awareness. It is open to all youth who have attended Higher Ground or who are graduating seniors in high school.

John Burks – 308-532-2707 | jburks@gidiocese.org

Teens Encounter Christ

Teens Encounter Christ is an intergenerational movement focusing on youth who are engaged in living out their passage from youth to young adulthood. It is an experience in Catholic living designed especially for young people from second semester sophomores in high school to age 23.

John Burks – 308-532-2707 | jburks@gidiocese.org

Office of Lay Ministry & Planning

The Office of Lay Ministry & Planning seeks to foster a growing awareness of the identity and mission of the laity in the Church, which is widely regarded to be one of the great fruits of the Second Vatican Council.

Michael Davis – 308.532.2707 | mdavis@gidiocese.org

Safe Environment and Child Protection

The Diocese of Grand Island Child Protection Office was established in 2005 with its mission to carry out the church's "Promise to Protect" children and youth and "Pledge to Heal" those victimized by sexual abuse. The office is served by two part time staff with several volunteer Victim Assistance Coordinators who are located across the Diocese. The office directs Victim Assistance Ministry and Safe Environment Programs for the Diocese of Grand Island.

Elizabeth A. Heidt, Ph.D., Director – 308.382.6565 | bheidt@gidiocese.org

Cheryl Albright, M.S., Outreach Coordinator – 308.382.6565 | calbright@gidiocese.org

Victim Assistance

As part of our ongoing efforts to create Safe Environments for our youth we would like to make you aware of the availability of Victim Assistance Coordinators within our Diocese. Five individuals with a background in psychology and mental health serve as Victim Assistance Coordinators for our Victim Assistance Ministry. These individuals are located in communities across the diocese. If you or someone you care about is suffering the pain of abuse, contact one of the following assistance coordinators to report church-related incidents of abuse or to seek support and find resources.

Grand Island:

Elizabeth Heidt, Ph.D. – 308-379-1949

Aileen Gruendel, Ph.D. – 308-381-2233

Ravenna:

Cheryl Albright, M.S. – 308-440-7644

Scottsbluff:

Matthew Hutt, Ph.D. – 308-632-8080

Anne Talbot, Ph.D. – 308-632-8547

En Espanol:

Olivia Gonzalez, DAC 308-635-3171

Vocations Office

Vocation Promotion, Discernment, Helping men and women to seek God's will in their lives. Helping to young people to discover the unique vocation God has given to them.

Rev. Neal J. Hock, Director – 308.234.1539 | vocation@gidiocese.org