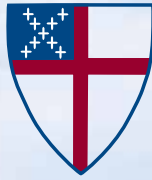


St. Luke's

Episcopal Church

Billings, Montana



View of Downtown Billings from the Rims. Photo by George Dodd, Getty Images.

PARISH PROFILE 2026

St. Luke's Welcomes You





WE PRAY

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings and unite us as we search for a new rector. Give us strength to pursue your will for your church in our community.

Be present in our midst and give us the spirit of wisdom to make good choices, focus on your kingdom in heaven and on earth, and avoid distractions that impede our ability to have eyes to see and ears to hear your guiding Spirit in our work.

Send us strength and endurance through this process that we may walk in your way without stumbling.

All this we ask through your son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.



*St. Luke's stained glass in the Chancel.
Holy Eucharist celebrated on Palm Sunday.*

MISSION AND VISION

Our mission is to reflect the love of Christ by serving our community through hands-on ministry, intentional support, and a welcoming space where everyone belongs.

We value the traditions, history, and liturgy of the Episcopal Church and the larger Anglican Communion. Worshiping together helps us build our community and strengthens us as we serve as the body of Christ in the world.

We value our congregation and seek to grow.

We care for each other in times of need and in times of joy and celebration through an active prayer chain, pastoral visits, and help with shopping and meals for our homebound parishioners.

We extend our mission to spread the good news of Christ's salvation into our community and the world around us.

We strive to welcome all who enter our doors and treat them as beloved children of God.



St. Luke's clergy and acolytes with Bishop Marty.





Our search process began with a formal survey with 51 responses and two formal listening sessions on Saturday mornings with the congregation.

Listening sessions were inspired from scripture in Luke (10:25-27) regarding how to inherit eternal life. *"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind,"* and *"Love your neighbor as yourself."*

We focused on positive discernment with gratitude for our gifts and desires for our congregation moving into the future. The first session focused on ***"What do we seek for our church in the future?"*** and the second session focused on ***"What impact do we wish our new rector to have on our church?"*** Each session had four small groups for discussion on "heart of the church" (outreach and in reach), "soul of the church" (liturgy/worship, prayer, preaching), "mind of the church" (youth and adult education and formation, training for service during worship), and "strength of the church" (building and grounds, stewardship, church growth, digital ministry). Everyone present rotated through all four groups with opportunity for reflection and discussion. Sessions ended with full group discussion and voting for the most important aspects of our life at St. Luke's.

The congregation placed the Eucharist, liturgy, and preaching at the center of our priorities for our church and new rector. Other top issues identified through this process are desire for education and formation opportunities for youth and adult members, church growth with focus on younger members and families, expanded use of our facilities to serve our congregation and community, and increased outreach to our neighbors in need.

*"Christ is alive here!
This church has great
people, great staff,
and great leadership."*

*"I want to grow this church
with a focus on youth and
continue to foster our
welcoming spirit."*

*"Friendly
church that
radiates love
in worship."*

*"This church welcomes those
with questions or doubts.
You don't have to check
your brain at the door."*

*"I am connected to this church
through the liturgy and traditions
of the Episcopal Church. I want to
share this experience with others ..."*

Voices of Our Congregation

Responses from a survey question asking parishioners what to tell a potential visitor about St. Luke's were warm and inviting. Many emphasized the traditional liturgy paired with a progressive and open spirit, strong outreach programs, and a sense of genuine community. Several responses simply said,

"Come try a Sunday morning with us and see for yourself."

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We ENGAGE our hearts by reaching out to all who need nourishment in the kingdom of God.

The Women of St. Luke's provide support during funerals, weddings, graduations, celebrations for baptisms and confirmations, as well as outreach projects.

We make sandwiches to feed those with housing insecurity twice a month through the Montana Rescue Mission.

We provide support to Tumbleweed which is a community supported program for homeless and at risk youth with pantry supplies, meals, and blessing bags for Christmas and other holidays. We provide gifts of warmth with hats, gloves and scarves in bags on our exterior church railing during the cold months of the year.

We support Camp Marshall and Grace Camp (for those with incarcerated or absent parents) to foster meaningful relationships with God in the beautiful setting of Flathead Lake.

We collaborate with our Child Enrichment Center Preschool, United Campus Ministry at Montana State University Billings, and make meaningful contributions to UTO and ERD to help address national and international needs.

“Outreach is important to this parish with tangible impact on our community and our church.”



Photos top left to right: Storytime in the Child Enrichment Center Preschool; Noelle helps serve a meal at Tumbleweed; Christmas Nativity Pageant 2025; Hats and mittens donated by parishioners and hung on the church banister for those in need; Shirley shops for Tumbleweed's pantry; Making sandwiches for the Montana Rescue Mission; Filling blessing bags for MSU-B students during exam week; Participating in the annual Downtown Billings Holiday parade; Camp Marshall's Eucharist on Flathead Lake; Celebrating a 70th wedding anniversary with family and parishioners.

WORSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

We ENGAGE our souls

by worshipping together. We value the timeless traditions of the liturgy of the Episcopal Church as well as music for worship.

Members actively participate in worship through Altar Guild, Acolyte and Eucharistic Minister service, and reading from the weekly lectionary. Godly Play is offered on Sundays for children aged 3–10 years.

We are enriched and engaged by the words of Jesus and preaching that is thought provoking. Questions are encouraged and explored. We participate in a full Holy Week from Palm Sunday through Easter morning. We gather for Stations of the Cross on Fridays throughout Lent.

We remember those who have died with a candlelit All Soul's service, pray with our LGBTQ+ community members during PRIDE, and bless the animals, great and small, every autumn. Pastoral care is provided to those in the hospital or those who are homebound by clergy and Lay Eucharistic Visitors.

"We pray for each other, the church, the community and the world."

We ENGAGE our minds

through group reflection and deep discussions of the lectionary readings and by participating in book studies. Coffee Talk on Sundays before worship is a lively

discussion of the week's lectionary readings. The men of St. Luke's share a book club with the men of King of Glory Lutheran Church and a parish wide book club has been restarted within the past year with enthusiastic participation. The congregation is interested in expanding training and education for lay ministers and acolytes. Expanded programs for youth fellowship, worship, service, and education are desired by our congregation.



Photos left to right: Celebrating Baptism with the Audet family; Linda teaches a Godly Play (Sunday School) lesson; Participating in Billings' annual Pride Parade.

We ENGAGE our strength by fully utilizing the talents of our congregation and maximizing use of our physical space. We gather for fellowship and community building through pot luck meals, musical events, Holy Week and Christmas meals as well as an annual Celebrate Camp Marshall barbecue.

Our high school graduates are recognized yearly with a special luncheon. We support our preschool by hosting two special events each year for fundraising. These events are popular with our congregation and anticipated by the community at large.

We have a variety of spaces to use for worship and prayer. We also provide outreach to groups who use our facility (Alcoholics Anonymous, grief groups from Riverstone Health Hospice, Billings Community Orchestra). Our park and playground are maintained by the work of the Junior Warden and congregation and are used by our members as well as by our neighbors.

We are enriched by God's presence as we care for his gifts.



Photos on the left: Vacation Bible School summer 2026; Trivia & Tapas preschool fundraiser. Photos on the right, top to bottom: Interior "secret" garden courtyard; Tuttle Park; Pumpkin decorating event with dads and preschool students; National Episcopal Women touring the country stop at St. Luke's for Holy Eucharist — a welcome surprise as they stepped off their bus and joined us.

HISTORY OF ST. LUKE'S



The first services for the Episcopal Church in Billings were held in the fall of 1882 with Rev. William Horsfall. Many locations were used for church services until the first structure built to house the church opened in February of 1886. This building was located at 1st Avenue South and South 29th Street. St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Rochester, New York generously donated money for the support of this building project and the Episcopalians in Billings named their new church in honor of this eastern parish.

The cornerstone was laid at the current church site at North 33rd Street on October 26, 1905 with estimated cost of completing the church at \$10,000. The Diocesan Convention in June 1906 formally admitted the St. Luke's parish into union with the convention. Additional land was purchased south of the church building in 1913 and trees were planted around the property. St. Luke's was formally consecrated by Bishop Faber and his co-adjuter, Bishop Herbert H. Fox in February of 1929. Cardwell Hall was built in 1941 with partial funding from a bequest from the late Sarah Cardwell.

St. Luke's Memorial Foundation was founded in 1959 to encourage, receive, and manage bequests and memorials. Funds managed by the Foundation improve the parish with long range planning for the physical plant and possible expansion as well as providing support to seminarians and development

of permanent parish programs. St. Luke's Memorial Hall was constructed between 1964 and 1966 and currently houses offices, the Philip Fortin Memorial Chapel and columbarium, the church library, and classroom space for Godly Play and our preschool.

The Burris Scholarship was established in 1983 by Robert Burris in memory of his parents to be awarded to high school graduates for help with higher educational costs. The St. Luke's Child Enrichment Center (preschool) has been part of our mission for education since 2003. The lot to the east of the church was purchased in 1984 and is our current parking lot. Cardwell Hall and the parish kitchen were renovated in 1995. The green space to the south of Cardwell hall was dedicated in November 1995 and named Tuttle Park, honoring Bishop Tuttle, missionary Bishop of Montana.

The stained glass windows at St. Luke's date to 1905 (the Resurrection window and the glass behind the organist) with the addition of the Nativity window in 1962. From 1994–1999, the main church was enhanced with windows on the south side of the nave depicting the seasons. From 1998–2000, windows were installed on the north side of the nave depicting St. Luke as an artist, evangelist, Gospel writer, and physician.



Photos left to right: The Rt. Rev. Daniel Tuttle, 1867–1880; St. Luke's first church, 1st Ave So. and 29th St., 1886–1906; Laying the cornerstone for the current St. Luke's Church by Bishop Brewer, October 26, 1905; Altar and choir are of St. Luke's 1910.



Stained glass representation of St. Luke in our Nave

The church sustained fire and smoke damage in 2022 and the parish moved worship to Cardwell Hall while the nave was cleaned and refurbished. Other recent additions include a new ramp into the main church entrance, addition of an ADA compliant restroom next to the nave, and extensive renovation of our kitchen in 2023 and 2024. We celebrated the 120th anniversary of St. Luke's current home in October 2025 and look forward to many more seasons of worship, education, and fellowship.



Worship continued in Cardwell Hall while our Sanctuary was repaired.

St. Luke's Demographic Information, 2025

- + Average Sunday attendance: **56**
- + Average weekday attendance in person (includes HolyWeek and special services): **28**
- + Estimated beneficiaries of outreach ministries: **150**
- + Average number of non-member volunteers for outreach ministries per week: **2**
- + Adult communicants in good standing: **111**
- + Youth communicants in good standing: **8**
- + Total communicants in good standing: **119**
- + Total number of members for 2025: **291**

Statistics

- ◆ Baptisms: **3**
- ◆ Confirmations: **1**
- ◆ Receptions: **0**
- ◆ Marriages: **1**
- ◆ Burials: **6**
- ◆ Eucharists: **154**
- ◆ Daily Office Services: **5**

Number of pledges in 2025 was **47**, monetary value of **\$130,700**.

Total revenue in 2025 was **\$323,571** from plate, pledge, and other contributions for general support as well as restricted contributions for specific purposes. Additional funds were obtained by transfers from investment accounts and parish fundraising events.

- Total expenses in 2025: **\$320,844**
- Non capital expenses: **\$263,642**
- Capital expenses: **\$57,202**

Investment assets 2025

Restricted or endowed funds: **\$62,816**
 Non endowed investments (restricted): **\$873,368**
 Total investment endowments: **\$936,184**
 Percentage draw from investment accounts in 2025 was **5.40%**
 Current debt: **\$0**



Christmas wreaths grace the church during the holiday season.

ABOUT BILLINGS

Billings is located in Yellowstone County in south central Montana and is the largest city in the state. Most recent census data reflects a population of 123,000 people and sustained growth of 1–2% per year over the last 20–30 years. The area including and surrounding Billings has a population of 193,000 people.

The **average salary in Billings is \$48,700** with average home price of \$410,000 and rental for two-bedroom space of \$1,500–2,000 per month. Billings is a hub for education, health care, agriculture and industry (including banking, manufacturing, oil refineries and mining). Public schools have a greater than 90% graduation rate and the community also has the option for private schools. Billings is home to Montana State University Billings and Rocky Mountain College. Rocky Vista University recently opened and provides graduate level medical education with plans to expand into veterinary education.

Two large hospitals, Billings Clinic and St. Vincent Regional Hospital/Intermountain Health, serve as a regional medical hub and provide primary and specialty care for the area along with Level One Trauma services.

Local farms and ranches grow wheat, pulse crops and sugar beets as well as livestock. Several oil refineries are based in the Billings/Laurel area. The Yellowstone River and excellent rail access are keys to industrial success in our region. We are served by an International Airport which provides access to larger hubs.



Bison graze along the Yellowstone River in Yellowstone National Park. The river, which also flows through Billings, is the longest free-flowing, undammed river in the continental United States, stretching more than 670 miles. Photo by John Gerosky, Getty Images.



Pompeys Pillar National Monument, is the only remaining on-site evidence of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, and is also marked with over 5,000 etchings, petroglyphs, and pictographs. Photo by zrfphoto, Getty Images.



The Yellowstone Art Museum is home to more than 8,000 works of art.



Billings is **home to significant art and cultural assets** as well. The Yellowstone Art Museum is a regional powerhouse in contemporary and western art. A thriving music scene includes the Billings Symphony Orchestra and Chorale, Rimrock Opera, and busy live music venues. Several community theatres provide live performances of new and classic works throughout the year. The Billings Public Library is a tremendous asset for community events and has won national awards for design. Multiple art galleries are featured on First Friday Art Walk events. Internationally known artists including Kevin Red Star call this region home. Billings has a rich culinary culture with excellent restaurants as well as craft breweries and coffee houses. The Art House Cinema is a local theater that attracts independently produced movies and documentaries as well as live performances.

State parks in the area include Pictograph Cave with prehistoric drawings. Pompey's Pillar National Monument is in Yellowstone County with William Clark's autograph carved into the cliffs above the Yellowstone River. The Little Big Horn National Battlefield is located one hour south of Billings and Yellowstone National Park is accessible with a scenic 2–3 hour drive. Residents of Billings enjoy the culture and natural beauty of Red Lodge, just a one hour drive from downtown. The Crow Reservation is to the south and east of Billings and the Northern Cheyenne Reservation extends closer to the Wyoming and South Dakota state lines. Powwows and Indian Races as well as the annual Crow Fair are integral parts of our cultural heritage in Billings. Zoo Montana provides education and exposure to animals of the region and the world along with a beautiful garden and amphitheater.

■ **Learn more:**

visitbillings.com

billingschamber.com/things-to-do

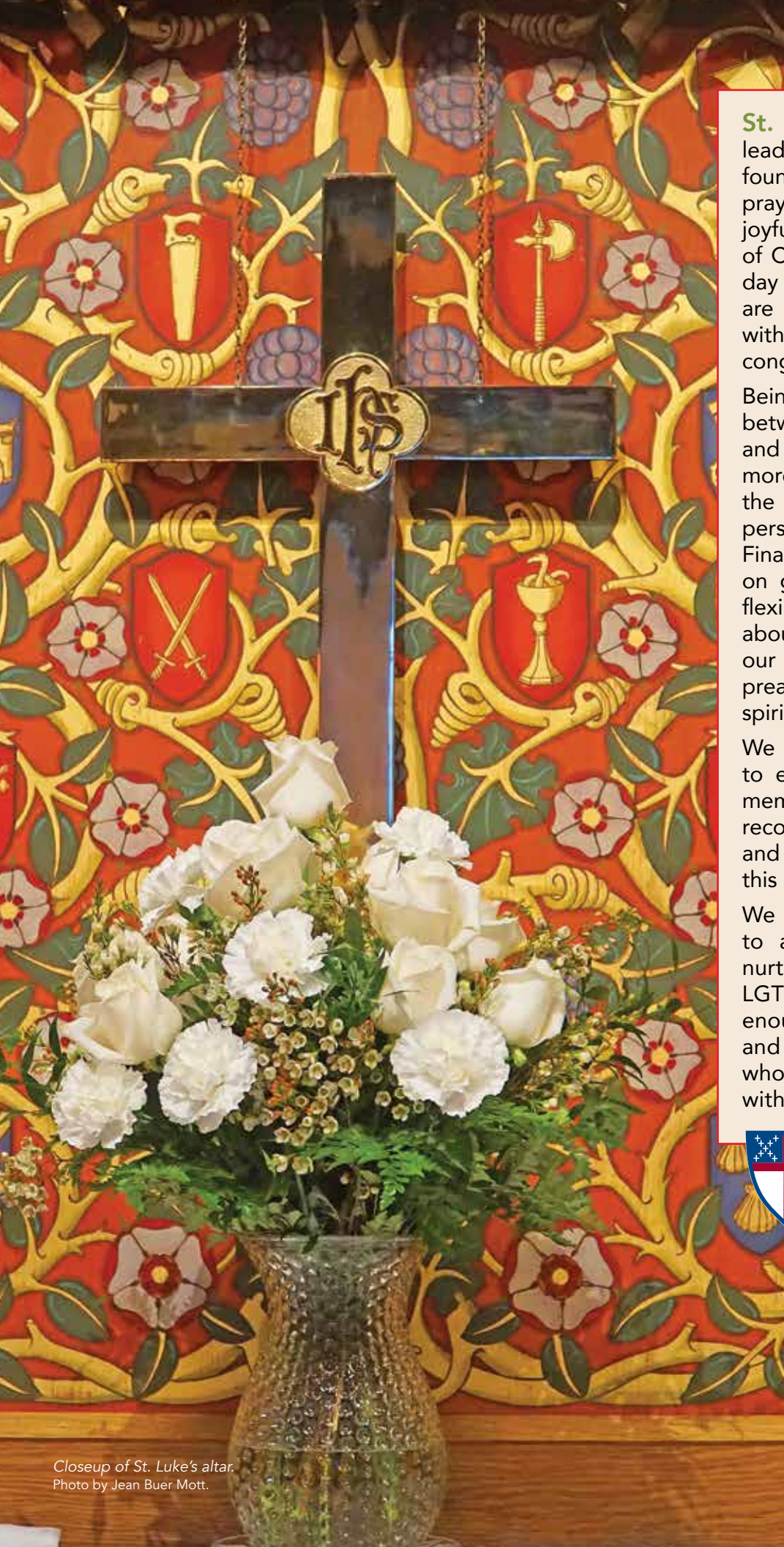
The **weather in Billings** is a full four season experience, sometimes in the same afternoon! The average daily temperature in January is 23 degrees F. The July average daily temperature is 74 degrees F. Range of temperatures is wide with potential high readings above 100 degrees F in July and potential low readings of - 25 degrees F in January and February. We average 59 inches of snow a year. Long term residents of the area always travel with a jacket, spare shoes, and a snow shovel in the trunk of the car.

Outdoor recreation is plentiful in this area with easy access to the Yellowstone River for boating and fishing, bicycle and walking trails in the city and outlying areas, and close proximity to the Beartooth Mountains for hiking in the summer as well as snowshoeing and skiing (XC and downhill) in the winter months. Hunting opportunities in the region are plentiful. Multiple golf courses and pickle ball/tennis courts are located in the city. A new indoor/outdoor sporting complex will be opening in the fall of 2026 with multiple venues for sports participation. Billings has many options for gyms and indoor exercise and hosts events such as the annual Montana Marathon and Big Sky State Games.

■ billingschamber.com/relocate-to-billings



Samantha cross-country skiing near Red Lodge; Autumn hiking by John, in the Beartooth Mountains, and heading to Mystic Lake for camping and fishing. Photos by Brett French.



Closeup of St. Luke's altar.
Photo by Jean Buer Mott.

St. Luke's is seeking a rector to lead us into the future with the strong foundation of Episcopal liturgy, prayer and preaching. We seek a joyful leader as we share the love of Christ and learn how to live each day as Christ has commanded us. We are eager to share our community with others and want to grow our congregation.

Being a rector requires a balance between the timeless rituals of prayer and liturgy and the need to embrace more modern technical tools to meet the needs of our church. We seek a person who can excel in both roles. Financial management and a focus on growth are important but so is flexibility and a willingness to learn about our parish, our community, and our physical assets. We value great preaching and teaching as well as spiritual guidance.

We look to the future with a desire to expand the number of younger members in our congregation and recognize the need for a collaborative and innovative vision to accomplish this goal.

We seek a rector who is welcoming to all, and who can continue to nurture our relationships with the LGBTQ+ community, our indigenous neighbors, people with food and housing insecurity, and anyone who is seeking a closer relationship with Jesus.



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