The Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway
Stavanger Congregation

Stavanger Anglicans' website:
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18 October 2026

Luke the Evangelist

Menighetshus Rektor Steens gata 7: 10:30

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 35.3–6

2 Timothy 4.5–17

Luke 10.1–9

Reflection

St Luke the Evangelist Day: God Calls Ordinary People

Dear friends in Christ,

Have you ever wondered what a church search committee looks for in a pastor? Good preaching? Excellent communication skills? A warm personality? Someone who can visit the sick, comfort the grieving, manage meetings, and still smile after the church council has finished discussing the budget?

Well, I recently came across a rather amusing pastoral search report. The committee reviewed several biblical candidates. Adam had family problems, Noah spent 120 years building something nobody seemed to want, Moses struggled with public speaking, David had a scandal in his personal life, Elijah suffered from depression, and Jonah had serious problems following instructions. Jesus himself was considered unsuitable because, after attracting thousands, he eventually ended up with only a handful of faithful followers!



GOD CALLS ORDINARY PEOPLE

And the committee's preferred candidate? Judas! He was financially responsible, well-connected, and had excellent references. Unfortunately, the committee overlooked one small detail: his heart!



I hope that brings a smile to your face. But beneath the humour lies a profound truth: God has never depended on perfect people to accomplish God's perfect purposes.

Today, as we celebrate St Luke the Evangelist, we remember a man traditionally associated with healing and the careful telling of the story of Jesus. Luke was a physician, a companion of Paul, and the author of the Gospel that bears his name and the Acts of the Apostles. Through his writings, we encounter a Christ who welcomes outsiders, lifts up the poor, heals the sick, and offers hope to those whom society overlooks.

Luke reminds us that God's kingdom is not built by impressive résumés alone. It is built through ordinary people who make themselves available to extraordinary grace.

Jesus sent his disciples out with a simple instruction: proclaim peace, care for the sick, and announce that God's kingdom has come near. He did not ask them to be flawless. He asked them to be faithful.

Perhaps this is also a helpful reminder for us here in Stavanger as we think about the future of our congregation and the people who will serve among us. We naturally hope for gifted ministers, wise leaders, and compassionate pastors. Those are good things to pray for! But let us remember that even the best pastor is still human. Pastors need grace, encouragement, forgiveness, and occasionally a good cup of coffee after a difficult meeting!

POINTING TOWARDS CHRIST

Martin Luther understood this well. A pastor is not someone we worship, but someone who points us towards Christ. The minister is not the destination; Jesus is.

So, dear friends, let us pray for those who lead us, support those who serve among us, and remember that God is still calling ordinary, imperfect people to do extraordinary things.



After all, if God could work through Moses, Jonah, Peter, Paul, and even the rest of us, there is surely hope for the Church!

May St Luke’s witness inspire us to tell Christ’s story with compassion, serve our neighbours with humility, and trust that God’s grace is always greater than our imperfections.

In the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Contacts and Connections



For pastoral needs,
Baptisms
Blessing of Civil Marriages
Funerals
Please contact the Assistant Chaplain

Father Martin

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Safeguarding concerns, workshops, or Safe Church enquiries: Please contact Jane, who will be happy to assist.

Acts of Mercy - fundraising, donations, or finances: contact Rumi

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Email: talk2rumi@yahoo.com

For website enquiries, please contact Sarah +4798543363

COLLECT

Almighty God,
you called Luke the physician,
whose praise is in the gospel,
to be an evangelist and physician of the soul:
by the grace of the Spirit
and through the wholesome medicine of the gospel,
give your Church the same love and power to heal;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.



How to support Stavanger Congregation financially



- Register as a member. Membership forms are available at Church.



- Donate in the Sunday collection basket. Vipps #667359 Stavanger Anglicans.



- Give tax efficiently by donating directly to the main chaplaincy account: **Account number: 7029 05 14973**

  If you complete your personnummer on the form and donate annually 500–25,000 NOK, you will receive a tax rebate.



- Give directly through your bank to Stavanger Congregation: **Account number: 3201 08 90631**



- Donate your time and skills.

YOU ARE INVITED

Tea & Fellowship

After the Service



Everyone is welcome!