



**Welcome to the Church of the
Annunciation
Luling, Texas**



On December 20, 1874, Bishop Robert W.B. Elliott, who had just been appointed Bishop of the new missionary District of Western Texas, was traveling by train to the new district by rail when his train stopped in Luling, which was then known as the “Wildest Town in Texas”. Bishop Elliott decided to hold the very first service in the District of Western Texas right here in Luling. The service was held in a railroad passenger car of the Galveston, Harrisburg, San Antonio Railway only eight months after the town of Luling was officially formed. This marked the first Episcopal service in what is now known as the Diocese of West Texas.

Early in 1875, the Reverend Wallace Carnahan, a circuit preacher, preached in Luling and served several other towns. The Reverend Nelson Ayres arrived as vicar in February 1876. Since there was no chapel, Reverend Ayres began to build the new chapel with his own hands, and the first service was held in the new chapel in April of 1877. The new chapel served as the first church building in Luling.

Our chapel retains much of its original flavor. Even though it was remodeled in 1938 and again in 1965 with added amenities, you can still see the original hand hewn beams in the high ceilings, woodwork, and wood floors.

We begin our profile with our history because it is very important to us and to the Diocese of West Texas. However, even though we are very aware of our history, we are also open to exploring new possibilities. As you will see in the following pages, we are a church family with a heart for outreach. We know each other well and we work hard to take care of each other and to take care of our community. In fact, we are determined to do both.

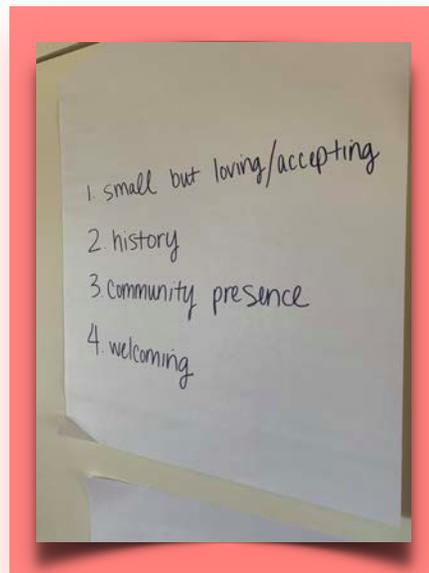
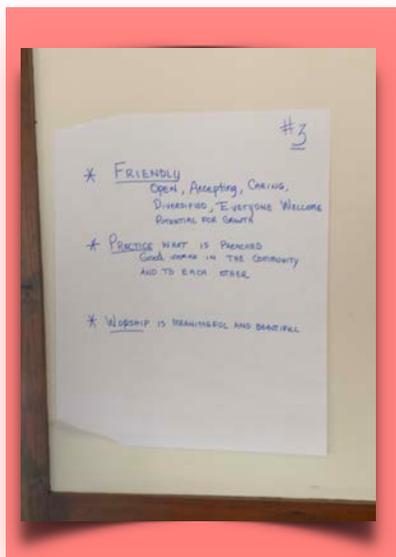
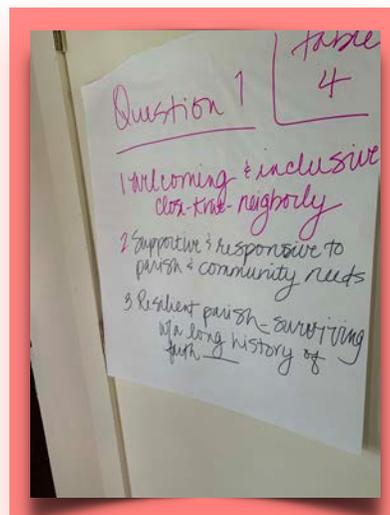
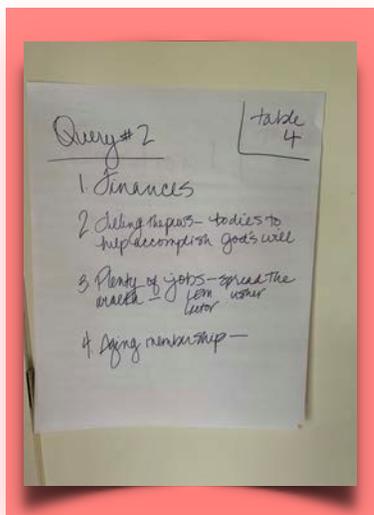
Wednesday Night Supper

Our WNS teams meet on Wednesdays to prepare supper for anyone wanting to come and share a meal with us. There is no cost to those who join us; just come and enjoy some food and fellowship!



Celebrating Annunciation!

In September, 2021, we gathered in our parish hall to celebrate! We had great food, fellowship, and conversations as we were asked to think about who we are as a church, where God might be leading us, and the qualities we are looking for in our next rector. You will find our responses on the following page.



If someone not connected with Annunciation were to ask us to tell them something about our church, the top 5-things we would say are:

1. We would tell them about our Wednesday Night Suppers and involvement in our community.
2. Everyone knows each other, we are a family.
3. Our church is beautiful!
4. We are welcoming (we really mean that) and inclusive.
5. The first Episcopal church service in our Diocese was held here.

What are our 5-greatest challenges at Annunciation?

1. We are small.
2. We know our church needs to grow.
3. The same people do most of the work.
4. Finding a part time priest that wants to come to Luling and stay awhile.
5. Our finances.

Some of our hopes, dreams, and prayers for our church included:

1. To grow!
2. To improve our finances and stewardship.
3. For everyone to “buy in”.
4. To be seen as a source of help.
5. To serve our community even more.
6. For outreach to be the biggest budget item.
7. For everyone to use their time, talent, and treasure.
8. Programs for all ages.
9. That our church will thrive and flourish.
10. Bring in members who have fallen away





To our next rector...

At the parish profile workshop, we were given a list of “rector qualities” and we were asked to mark the five most important qualities and gifts we believe our next rector should possess. We did this knowing that our next rector cannot do everything, and we don’t expect them to. Rather, we are ready to partner with you in doing ministry and in praying about a way forward for us. As we mentioned earlier, we’ve been around a long time (longer than any other church in our diocese) and we intend to continue to be the Episcopal presence in Luling for even longer! We pray that our next rector will build relationships with us, will enjoy small town life, and will lead us to our next chapter. Among the list of qualities/gifts, we chose the following:

1. Developing and supporting formation for children and youth.
2. Pastoral care that includes visiting the sick, bereaved, and homebound.
3. Actively involved and visible in the community beyond the church.
4. Strong, energetic preaching that relates the Gospel to our daily lives.
5. Collaborating with other churches in the community ministry.

We look forward to meeting you!

Sincerely...

The people of Annunciation Luling

Church of the Annunciation by the Numbers

Membership and Attendance	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Members	113	112
ASA	44	38
Easter Sunday	75	*0
Baptisms	0	0
Confirmations	0	0
Marriages	0	0
Burials	1	0
 Stewardship and Finances		
Pledges	25	23
Total Amount Pledged	\$76,000	\$57,500
Total Revenue	\$160,000	\$109,483
Total Expenses	\$156,552	\$141,240
Total cash in checking and savings	0	\$285,385
Total investment at market value	0	0

*No Easter service due too Diocesan shut down of churches for COVID-19.



Welcome to Luling, Texas!

Luling, Texas has a population of just over 5,800 people and is located in Caldwell county along the San Marcos river. Luling finds itself a day trip (or less) away from San Antonio, Austin, Wimberley, New Braunfels, San Marco, and Seguin. Our city is known for the Main Street square, natural beauty, the abundance of outdoor pleasures to enjoy, oil, Buc-ees (more on that later), and BBQ.

The Luling ISD (home of the Fighting Eagles!) offers an Elementary School, Middle School, and High School.

There is plenty to see and do in and around Luling. The Zedler Mill is a great place to cool off in one of Texas' best swimming holes during the hot summers. Palmetto State Park offers a unique place to feel as though you've stepped into another part of the world. The Luling Oil Museum and Pump Jack Tour are unique ways to explore the history of oil in Luling, and if you are in town at the end of June you can experience the Luling Watermelon Thump, a festival that offer you the chance to eat as much of our sweet watermelon as you want!



Luling!

There's nothing wrong with being known for your BBQ is there? Luling is part of the world famous Texas BBQ Trail, and we just so happen to believe that ours is best! Folks travel from near and far to Luling in order to get a taste of heaven served right off of the smoker! Even better news? Luling's BBQ is less than 5-minutes from the church. When the wind is just right, you can smell it right outside your church office door.

We are also known for the world famous beaver, or to be more specific, the Buc-ees beaver. A convenience store and gas station may not sound like much to be excited about, but this is Texas and you know what they say, it's bigger here! Buc-ees takes "convenience store" to it's highest level, (over 60,000 square feet to be exact), and it offers an experience like no other! You have to see it for yourself!



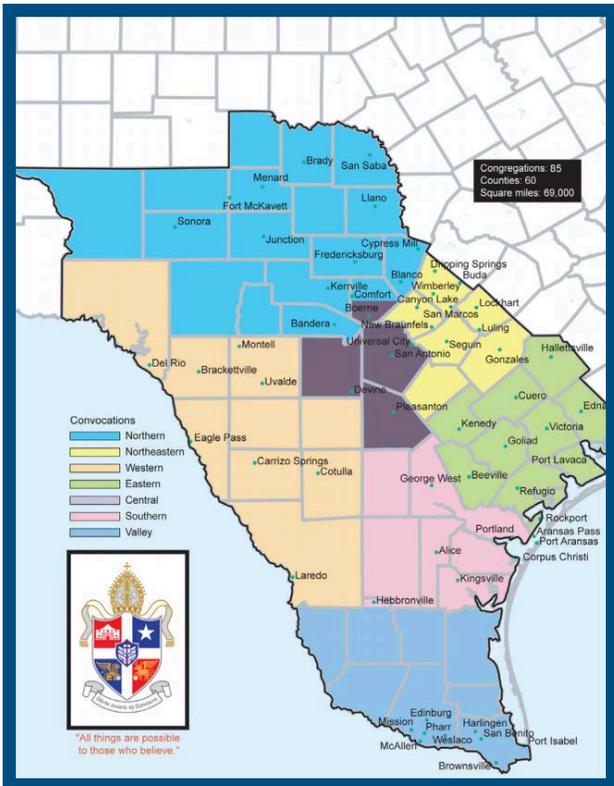


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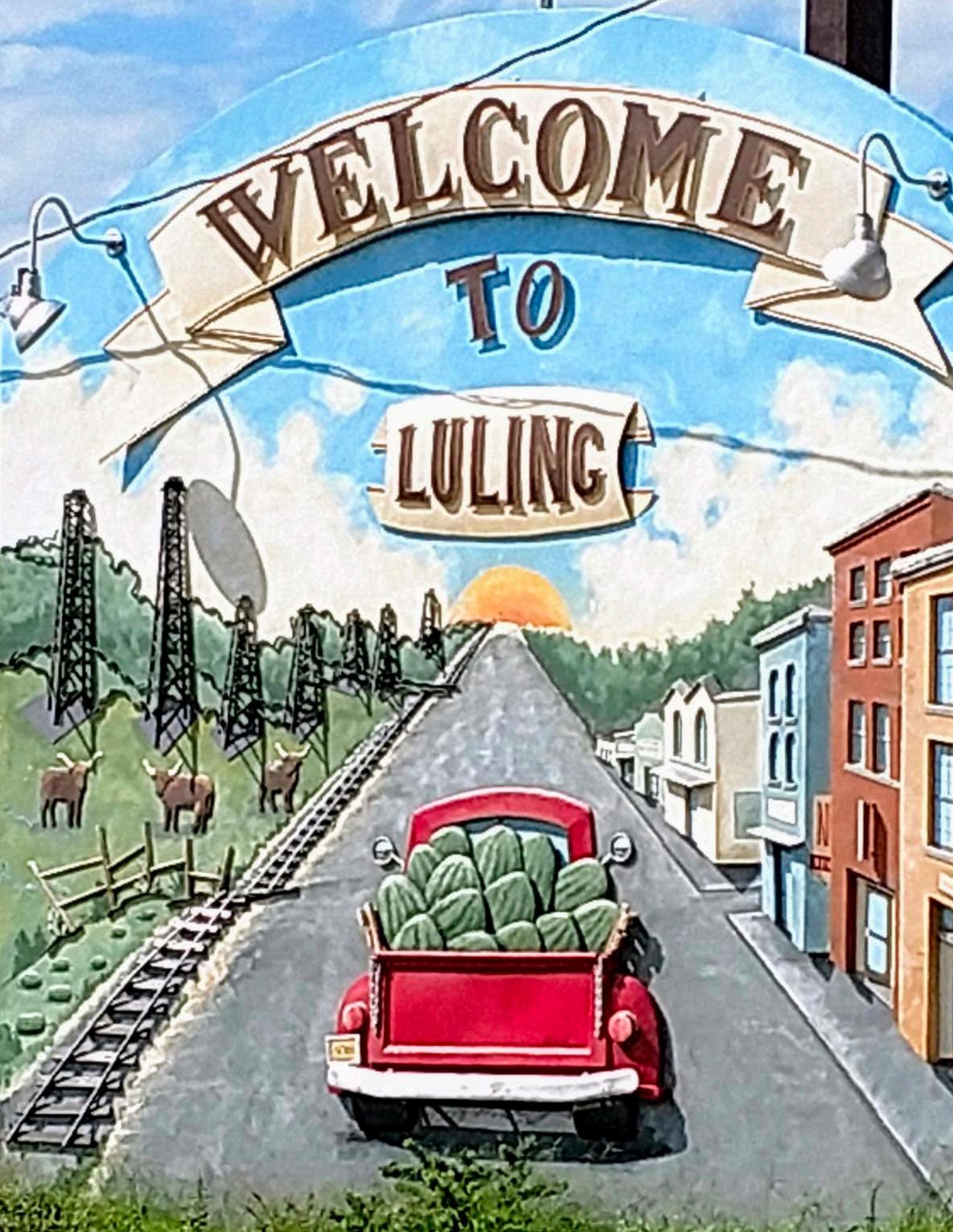
of West Texas



The Right Reverend David Reed, Bishop of the Diocese of West Texas, leads our Diocese in living into its core values of faith, scripture, prayer, sacramental worship, evangelism, mission, and reconciliation. Bishop Reed was born and raised in the Diocese (Rio Grande Valley) and truly loves the people and congregations he serves.



Annunciation is part of the Diocese of West Texas, which is made up of 85 congregations spread out over almost 70,000 square miles. From Brady and San Saba to the north, the Texas Hill Country, to the coastal bend, to the Rio Grande Valley, you will find faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ doing the work that God calls us to do!



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