

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
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P.O. Box 109
Wamego, KS 66547

*“To Know
Christ and To
Make Christ
Known”*

*2015 Parish
Theme:*

*“Who is Your
Personal
Lord?”*

**Our Vestry
members** are Jay
Hildreth (Senior
Warden), Doug
Elcock (Junior
Warden), Cliff
Robb (Treasurer),
Cinnie Hill (Clerk),
Claudia McKinsey,
Levi Hannan,
John Desper

St. Lukes Newsletter



December, 2015

Rector's page : Emmanuel and Advent: Come and Worship

Happy New Year! As catholic like Episcopalians we mark the beginning of a new church calendar on the first Sunday of Advent. From November 29 to December 24, 2015 our liturgical calendar marks the coming of something new each day. Until the evening of December 24, when the Earth has turned far enough on its planetary axis, that sunbeams can no longer shed natural light on a dark wintry landscape. On that night, there is silence and stillness. On that silent night, God cries out in a loud voice for all of creation and we are born from above with a child wrapped in swaddling clothes.

This description of how we approach and arrive at Christmas Day 2015, should feel quite familiar for those who mark their days on Earth as Christ's own forever. Christmas is always preceded by days of preparation and eager anticipation building up within the hearts of the faithful. Our songs and hymns, carols and lessons, sermons and vestment colors all refer to this time of waiting and becoming, evolution and pilgrimage. Perhaps, it is the action of waiting for the Messiah (Aramaic) or Christ (Greek) to come, that is the reality we begin to unwrap, connect to and experience for the first time, again.

Emmanuel is transliterated in English as God with us. Advent is defined as coming into place, view or being; arrival. Yet, the felt sense of both Emmanuel and Advent is less accessible as we all choose to not fully participate in the discipline of communal worship. The inaccessibility of the felt sense of God with us and God coming in this place is an outcome of basic distrust in worship and communal life. Therefore, it is imperative for us to begin where we are as soon as possible, to refocus our collective efforts toward basic trust in our worship together.

As your Rector, there is an enormous amount of basic trust in our outreach ministries, but what about the inreach ministries? I am not concerned that we are not faithful in prayer and support of each other. I am not concerned about our worshipping community and the faithful discernment done each time we meet to study, pray, and worship together. What concerns me most this Advent season is accessibility to our communal worship.

Quite simply, there are many reasons why so many people in our culture have left and continue to stay away or never even darken the door of a wor-

shipping community. But, what I am no longer willing to do is play the role of a bystander and pretend that Episcopalians are not part of the mess of our culture. Conflictual interpretations of scripture, clashing of cultural values, and a class warfare spilling over into the streets apparently signal the coming forth of something new. Advent is happening all around us and Emmanuel is here with us, BUT how can anyone see with the eyes of faith without full participation in a worshipping community?

It is time for me to get messy and ask folks to come and worship at St. Luke's. It is time for all of us to get messy. It is our turn to take care, basic trust and deliver an invitation to our neighbors and especially those who live alone. When we ask someone to come and worship with us, I pray that we have no fearing and a basic trust in the Holy Spirit. O Come, O Come, Emanuel...

Father ~ Matt

Children's Garden Update:

"Now I lay me down to sleep..."

And now it's time for the garden at St. Luke's to be put to bed as well. The harvest concluded with sweet potatoes, a last picking of basil and green tomato bread made from the last of the still-green tomatoes-- the green tomatoes also made an appearance as spider eyeballs at the Outlet's Halloween open house! Thank you to everyone who helped in the garden this season, with weeding, watering, supplies, prayers and enjoying the produce and beauty provided by God through nature. Until spring...

Emily Benson

Christmas Bureau:

St Luke's is adopting a family again this year. This is possible because of the involvement of all the membership. Please plan to help this year. An announcement will be sent out when the families are assigned.

Christmas Cookies

Christmas Cookies

We need everyone to make Christmas cookies for the Cookies by the Pound.

It will be held this Sat., Dec. 5, 9:00-noon. This is a major fund raiser for Guild projects and Mega Camp scholarships. **Please help.**

Service Duty Schedule: December is a busy month for everyone and difficult to schedule the service duties. Please trade you assignment if you are unable to carry it out. If that is not possible, let Fr, Matt know.

Prayers:

We pray for those who are currently ill: David, Doreen, Alice, Kay, Kent, Lynn, Outlet Club

Please pray for the Episcopal Migration Ministry/Wichita

Please pray for our Military personnel: Scott, Ben, Ian, and Mike.

Community Health Ministry:

Sunday, December 6th 4-7 pm Chamber of Commerce Season of Lights kickoff – carriage rides, train rides (weather permitting), Santa Claus, Live Nativity, Model train, Cookies and Hot Chocolate, Gingerbread Houses, Trees with a Mission

Council of Churches:

Fr Mike Peterson will continue serving as President of the Council in 2016. The council is busy with the Christmas Bureau. Erica Cobb is the lead this year. Distribution will be Sat., Dec 12 at the Methodist Church.

Guild:

Next on our agenda will be the annual Cookies by the Pound sale on Saturday, December 5th from 9-12. We have seven tables reserved for Home Based Businesses.

Have them at church by 8 am on Saturday, December 5th labeled with the cookie name and the number of cookies in dozens. Hope every family contributes at least one batch of cookies this year, the more batches made the better the sale. We can also use tiered plates for the centerpieces on our round tables.

BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER:

Dec. 1-Sebastian Balderson
Dec. 2-Scott Weber
Dec. 6 – Jenny O’Konski
Dec. 7 – Cliff Robb
Dec. 9-Anna Lee Roediger
Dec. 12 – Richard O’Konski

Dec. 19-Cinnie Hill
Dec. 23-Tristan Weber
Dec. 23-Tayke Weber
Dec. 25 – Katie O’Konski
Dec. 31-Pat Orndorff

ANNIVERSARIES:

Dec 24- John & Linda Chmiel
Dec. 27-Doug & Joyce Elcock

Christmas Bureau:

Erica Cobb deserves a huge thanks from the congregation for saying yes to the leadership of the Christmas Bureau. You might notice activities in the Guild Hall most Wednesdays at noon from now until early Dec. The committee meets to match those who need adopting with those who wish to adopt. And there is so much more to a successful event. St. Luke’s will be assigned they family soon and all will be aske dot help.

When you see Erica, give her a hug.

TTEM Breakfast:

Our next breakfast will be Thursday December 17th. Please contribute time, food, or money toward this outreach. Look for the new sign-up sheet in Guild Hall. We would like someone to sign up to make the special of the day too.

DECEMBER SCHEDULE:

Saturday, December 5: 9-12: Cookies by the Pound.

Sunday, December 6: Guild meeting - 11 am **Pledge cards due.**

Sunday, December 13: Vestry meeting – 8:15 am

Thursday, December 17: 7:30-9 am: - TTEM Community Breakfast

Thursday, December 24: Lessons and Carols at 7; Feast of the Nativity at 7:30

Upcoming Events:**St. Luke's Weekly Schedule:**

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Rite II Holy Eucharist

Mondays: 6:30 a.m. Spiritual Development Book Group –
McDonalds

Tuesdays: 9 am – 10am; Sign Language

10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Bible Study

8 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. AA

Wednesdays: 6 - 7:30 p.m. WE Potluck Supper and Ministry

Thursdays: 10:45-11:25 a.m. High School Service Group cleaning time

7:30 p.m. Cursillo Reunion Group

Father Matt Office Hours are by appointment on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

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Treasurer's Report:

Discretionary Fund Sundays in December: Rector's is the first Sunday, December 6. Any loose money in the offertory goes to support this fund so please help as you are able to. If there is a fifth Sunday a second smaller alms basin will be passed for those pursuing seminary educa-

Altar Guild:

Anyone wishing to give flowers in Thanksgiving or in memory of someone, you may arrange this by taking the flower inserts to the Flower Mill, asking them to arrange the flowers of your choice and they will place them in the church on Saturday morning for the Sunday you request. Please pay the Flower Mill or give our treasurer the money to pay the bill. Please inform Joyce or Cinnie that you are doing this to prevent duplication.

Sunday School:

Myrline will teach the younger students and Emily will be teaching the older students.

Myrline

FYI: Sunday duties for **January 3 Sunday service: Altar Guild: Pat Frey, Cinnie Hill, Lay Reader: Ed Dillinger, Chalice Bearer: Ed Dillinger, Greeter: John Chmiel, Coffee Host: Chmiels**

December, 2015

	December 6	December 13	December 20	December 24	December 27
Altar Guild	Linda Chmiel, Joyce Elcock	Martha Miller, Emily Benson	Laura Hannan, Myrline Winkler	Pat Frey, Cinnie Hill	Linda Chmiel, Joyce Elcock
Lay Reader	Larry Hannan	Pat Frey	Kudy Hildreth	Ebba Robb	Myrline Winkler
Chalice Bearer	Larry Hannan	Ebba Robb	John Desper	Ed Dillinger	Myrline Winkler
Greeter/	Judy Hildreth	John Chmiel	Martha Miller	Erica Cobb	Judy Hildreth
Coffee Host	Martha Miller	McConkey	Hildreth	Cobbs	Robbs