

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
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St. Luke's Newsletter



February, 2015

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

*2014 Parish
Theme:*

*Our Village
within Vital
practice
merits a
View for Vi-
brancy*

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

Rector's page

Rector's Page: What are you giving up for your personal Lord this Lent?

In just over two weeks on February 18, Ash Wednesday, Lent begins with a bidding for us to observe a Holy Lent. We are invited like generations of Christians before us to prepare for the Reaffirmation of our Baptismal Covenant and witness to the Life of Christ, Crucified, Died, Risen and Ascended as well as the Coming of the Holy Spirit after fulfilling the truth proclaimed in all the Law and Prophets.

What may observing a Holy Lent in anticipation of Reaffirmation look like for you? Are you like many other Catholics who choose to practice a spiritual discipline and renew their rule of life throughout the 40 days and 40 nights of the Lenten Sojourn? As Episcopalians we are most definitely “lower case c” Catholics, which means that Lent is a time for renunciation, repentance, and renewal of the soul for more life and to ultimately learn to love like God Who is passionate toward all of humanity.

As Lent begins it is our individual decision to observe a Holy Lent and thereby to follow Jesus the Christ to His most Holy Cross on Calvary's ridge, just outside the gates of the Holy City, Jerusalem of Judea. I always like to remind folks during this season, that it is an individual decision to follow Christ to the Cross and by doing so we bear our crosses, as such. Yet, the Paschal Outcome is not customized for individuals who merit a just desert and heavenly reward. No, everyone is fulfilled in the Light of Christ, Risen and Ascended. Grace prevails in the end and if it isn't grace-filled, well it's not the end, so keep going in faith on this one precious life journey.

So, what will you be giving up for Lent? Remember, that to give up something or someone for Lent means you are intending to observe a Holy Lent. For almost three quarters of Lent you will be giving up your rector/priest/pastor. Perhaps, you are trying to lose a few more pounds before summer and you can give up sweets or even sugar. But, remember that you are making an offering and sacrifice to God that is pleasing to Him whose only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, offered the ultimate on a lonely wooden cross.

What is the only thing in light of Christ Jesus as our personal Lord that would be pleasing to God Almighty, Our Father Who Art in Heaven? Psalm 51 verse 18 says, “The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit, a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.” “Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High,” says Psalm 50:14. Mercy and Peace be with you all.

~ Father Matt

Thoughts from the back pew: February, 2015

Status Quo or Stratosphere?

The past couple of weeks I have received an education on international shipping, a subject I had not thought about much despite working for an international company the past 4 years. With the recent change my company made by moving all sales for underground projects to a new joint venture that I am a part of, our way of doing business has undergone a radical change. Previously, all I had to do was to look up what and how much of each product was stored in the warehouse, submit an order and the product was delivered to the customer. Now, with the change, the product is shipped from overseas in containers directly to the customer with no warehousing involved. It all seemed to be pretty straight forward. Until, of course, the ‘incoterms’ started showing up. What are incoterms you ask? They are the magic three letter codes that govern all international shipping. I think many of us have heard of FOB (free on board) but how about DAT (delivered at terminal), DAP (delivered at place) or, DDP (delivered duty paid)? With DAT the container is basically set off the boat on the dock and with DDP it is delivered to your door with all the duty and taxes paid, big difference! I spent three days this week talking to customs brokers, tax remediation specialists, shipping companies and freight forwarders because a clerk had labeled a shipment DAP instead of DDP, again big difference! Needless to say it has been a big change for both me and my customers. Last week I had an air freight shipment going from Belgium to a potash mine just outside Saskatoon, Canada. I could hear the confusion in my customer’s voice when I told him I needed him to sign a power of attorney so that my customs broker could act on his behalf with Canadian Customs before the shipment could be loaded on a truck and leave the airport in Calgary.

I’ve also had several customers who don’t want to make the change they are comfortable with the old way of doing things, after all that’s the way it’s always been. However, when they learn they will save anywhere from \$2,000 to \$4,000 per shipment because the product doesn’t get unloaded then reloaded and shipped twice they are generally OK with making the switch.

All of this along with the discussions at the annual meeting got me thinking. Just how much are we all really open to change? We say we are, but honestly, I think we all get comfortable with the way things are and unless something comes along and shakes things up we are mostly content with the status quo. I think this applies to not just individuals but also companies and organizations like St. Luke’s too. I think we are trying to service 21st century needs with a 20th century system and, just like my company and our customers we have to learn new ways “to get the product to market”. How do we balance the needs of the Sunday morning folks who basically pay the bills with the needs of the diocese and our church outreach programs: TTEM, the Wednesday night children’s garden and The Outlet that all need our support? How do we step up and get from DAT and simply dropping things off the side of the boat to DDP and delivering what is needed, where it’s needed at the right time? I think for me, I believe that we all need to reflect on how much St. Luke’s and the work we do here means to each of us and individually decide which of those works we are willing to go above and beyond what we have done in the past to support. Maybe we need a new approach to funding, or not. Maybe we all just need to dig a little deeper, or not. Maybe the status quo is fine. One thing I learned this past week is that change is inevitable and it’s better to be to learn something new than to be left behind.

Malcolm

“Never believe that a few caring people can’t change the world. For, indeed, that’s all who ever have”.

Margaret Mead

Prayers:

We pray for those who are ill or are caregivers: John, Alice and family, Bill and Family, Jillian, Lynn and family, Callie, Gerlinda

In addition we can pray at home for those needing on-going prayers: Amy Jo, Ann, Bob, Dave, David, Doreen, Heather, Jeff, Jenny, Jonah and family, Kay, Mark, Maryanna, Pat;

Plus prayers for our Military personnel: Scott, Ben, Ian, and Mike.

BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY:

Feb. 5-David Frey

Feb. 12-Pat Frey

Feb. 12-Kally McConkey

Feb. 22-Joyce Elcock

Feb 28-Mike Robles

ANNIVERSARIES:

Feb. 22-David & Pat Frey

Outreach:

Our next TTEM Breakfast will be on Thursday, February 18 from 7:30 to 9 am. Although the free will donations continue to be sufficient to pay for the food needed, your food donations are also welcome. We could use more volunteers at the breakfast, even if you can only help for an hour, sometime between 6:30 and 10:00 am.

Food Pantry Month: Did anyone bring food or paper supplies for the food pantry this past month? We should be supporting these pantries.

Vestry:

Our new Vestry members are John Desper and Levi Hannan for a two year term and Claudia McKinsey and Cliff Robb for the three year term.

The Officers are: Senior Warden: Jay Hildreth; Junior Warden: Doug Elcock; Treasurer: Cliff Robb; and Clerk: Cinnie Hill

Sunday School: In February, our Sunday School teachers will be Myrline and Martha.

Myrline

More Musings:

Father Matt will be out of town from February 2 through March 20th on a ministry trip to India. See the February schedule for dates we will have a supply priest. The other services will be Morning Prayer.

Guild Hall Door does work with the key, but it won't release the key except when locked. After it is unlocked, use the Allen wrench to hold the panic bars in the open position.

There is a church key available for emergencies at Pugh's Law Office, if you need access to our buildings.

Ash Wednesday service will be on February 18th at 7 pm led by Mother Susan Sawyer.

Our representatives to Convocation are: Myrline Winkler and Laura Hannan with the alternates being Claudia McKinsey and John Desper.

Our representatives to Council of Churches are Joyce Elcock, Ed Dillinger and Father Matt.

Treasurer's Report: The following summary reflects the results of the operating fund, income and expense for the month of December 2014, with a budget comparison. (The Year-to-date includes the beginning balance on January 1st)

	Current month	Year-to-date	Budget
Income	\$ 4,582.56	\$ 73,342.34	\$ 62,024.33
Expense	\$ <u>3,937.32</u>	\$ <u>72,697.10</u>	\$ <u>61,299.10</u>
Difference	\$ 645.24	\$ 645.24	\$ 725.23

Discretionary Fund Sundays in February: Rector's is the first Sunday, February 1. Any loose money in the offertory goes to support this fund on that Sunday, please help with the funds. Thank you.

FEBRUARY SCHEDULE:

Sunday, February 1: 11:00 am – Guild Meeting
5 pm – Ultreya – Guild Hall. Potluck follows the meeting.

Sunday, February 8: 8:15 am - Vestry Meeting
9:30 am – Morning Prayer

Sunday, February 15: 9:30 am – Father Mark Jeske will preside.

Tuesday, February 17, 5:00-7:00– Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Wednesday, February 18: 7 pm – Ash Wednesday - Mother Susan Sawyer will preside.

Thursday, February 19: 7:30-9 am: - TTEM Community Breakfast

Sunday, February 22: 9:30 am - Morning Prayer

Sunday, March 1: 9:30 am – Mother Susan Sawyer will preside.

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. Potluck Supper and Ministry

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

Council of Churches: Annual Report

The Council of Churches meets the 3rd Wednesday of alternating months, starting with January. In most cases, the meetings are hosted by the President's church with a light luncheon beginning at 11:30, meeting begins at noon and generally dismisses at 1 pm.

A special thanks to St. Luke's Guild for hosting 2014 meetings.

2015 meetings will be at First Presbyterian as Pastor Bill Seitz is President. Next meeting will be March 18, 2015.

Primary focus of the Council is to coordinate the planning and hosting of community events and activities. St. Luke's hosted the Walk for Warmth in 2014 and will host the Christmas Bureau in 2015. January and July are our months to supply donations to the food pantries. September is our month to deliver Meals on Wheels.

The Council also serves as a communication vehicle throughout our church community. Habitat for Humanity, Red Cross, and Salvation Army were among presentations last year.

Walk for Warmth has been changed to CHM WALK and scheduled for April 25, 2015.

Each Church is allowed two voting representatives plus Pastor. However, all are invited to attend and participate

Ed

Diocesan News:

Youth news

Summer youth ministry internship applications now available. Do you know a college student interested in pursuing a vocation in ministry? If so, ask them if they are interested in applying for the Summer Youth Ministry Internship. Applications are due Feb. 28. Learn more about the program and how to apply at <http://edokyouth.wordpress.com/internship/>

Episcopal summer MegaCamp registration is now open

Camp is May 31-June 6 at Camp Wood YMCA and is open to those currently in grades 3-12 and their friends. The cost is \$420 for the week, and the deadline to register is May 8. Registration forms and more information are online at <http://edokyouth.wordpress.com/camp/>

Webinars for church leaders offered by Episcopal Church Foundation

A series of webinars for clergy and lay leaders will be presented in February by the Episcopal Church Foundation.

>> Vestry Orientation. Tuesday, Feb. 10, 6-7 p.m. Central time. Designed for clergy, wardens and vestry members, this webinar will explore the role of the vestry in selecting new leadership, orienting new members, planning and evaluation, and supporting staff and volunteers.

>> Year Round Stewardship. Wednesday, Feb. 11, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Central time. Participants will learn how to engage donors for lifelong giving that includes providing a contextual understanding of how and why people give to the church; utilizing opportunities to say “thank you” as a means to educate; and connecting year-round stewardship activities to donors’ varied characteristics.

>> Caring for Clergy and Congregations. Thursday, Feb. 12, 6-7 p.m. Central time. The Network of Episcopal Clergy Associations has partnered with the Episcopal Church Foundation to offer a panel presentation on the difficult topic of clergy calls that end badly, not in celebration but in heartache. This webinar will explore the call for greater training around conflict for church leaders, ways to care for clergy and congregations who go through these experiences, and the opportunity for clergy and the congregations to give back to the wider church through this experience

More information and links to sign up for any of these webinars is online at <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/about/news/30/ecf-webinars-february-2015>

February, 2015

	February 1	February 8	February 15	February 22	
Altar Guild	Cinnie Hill, Joyce Elcock	Morning Prayer	Martha Miller, Ellie Baker	Morning Prayer	
Lay Reader	Cliff Robb	Doug Elcock	Ed Dillinger	Larry Hannan	
Chalice Bearer	Malcolm Smith		Larry Hannan		
Greeter/ Usher	Martha Miller	Doug Elcock	Larry Hannan	Erica Cobb	
Coffee Host	Hannans	Winklers	Martha Miller	Kally Mc Conkey	