

# St. Luke's Episcopal Church

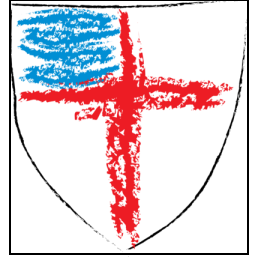
January, 2017

## “To Know Christ and Make Christ Known”

Our Vestry Mem-  
bers:

Jay Hildreth  
(Senior Warden),  
Doug Elcock  
( Junior Warden  
and Treasurer),  
Cinnie Hill (Clerk),  
Claudia McKinsey.  
Levi Hannan, Ed  
Dillinger, Thomas  
Brown

# St Luke's Newsletter



### Senior Warden's Report:

I have been reflecting on 2016 and the past years before. It is very obvious that 2017 will be different. There will be three of us moving off of the vestry this January: myself, Doug Elcock, and Levi Hannan. I want to thank Doug for all his work as Junior Warden and as Treasurer. He will be staying on as Treasurer; but as a nonvoting member. I will miss Levi's Monthly review of a passage in the Bible.

Father Matt is moving forward to a full time position in the church in Minneapolis as a retreat director. I wish him well in his Life's Mission of serving God. Previous to that Matt has been with us on a 50% basis. We have been comfortable with that arrangement. Father Matt has recently lead us into the use of Morning Prayer as a means of worship when either he or Supply Priests have not been available. I am glad that we developed our Morning Prayer skills as I am comfortable now with that form of worship. I enjoy the sermons presented by members of our congregation. It has provided a format for them to articulate God's message from their point of view and I find that viewpoint refreshing.

Cinnie Hill has been a mainstay of the Vestry and creates the continuity we need as our membership is always changing and she brings the new members up to speed. She does an awesome job with keeping the communications going within our congregation.

Ed Dillinger remains on the Vestry. He is serving out Cliff's Robb's position. Previously he attended most meetings as Levi's mentor. Ed also serves as one of our liaisons to the Council of Churches.

Claudia Mc Kinsey has been very active as youth director for our Wednesday night Pot Luck get-togethers. She has been instrumental in developing the Dillon's rewards donation program. She is currently recovering from her second total hip replacement. She also has developed the contact for the restoration for the West Stained Glass Window.

Thomas Brown has been very active especially in the coordination of the Thursday Sharing Table Breakfast Program.

It is a pleasure and I have enjoyed working with our Vestry Members.

The search for a new Rector is in progress. We have a meeting scheduled with The Canon to the Ordinary, Torey Lightcap and Debbie Kremers, Diocesan Transition Minister in the next couple of weeks. We will review the surveys that they supplied to us. I am especially interested in talking to them about how our needs mix with the needs of other local small parishes.

FYI: Mryline Winkler has volunteered to develop a West Window Fund Drive Committee. She will be starting after the first of the year. Those of you who are interested in helping her please talk to her directly.

Yours in Christ,

### Junior Warden and Treasurer:

Thanks to every for helping to keep our church maintained and keeping it presentable to all who use it.

Thanks to everyone who supported St. Luke's in 2016. We are in the best financial shape in many years.

*Doug Elcock*

### Vestry:

Motions passed:

- Stained glass window project is to become a fundraising campaign as we would like to raise an additional \$10,000 to enable the stained glass company to refurbish the entire window not just the center section of the church west window.
- Thanksgiving Free Will basket net of \$560 will be sent to the Council of Churches.
- Priest search survey should be completed by the parish family. It was decided to have each Vestry person complete as many questions
- Part of the fish fry proceeds will be used to pay the church insurance for the deductible.
- The key holders for the police department are Eric Benson, Doug Elcock, Larry Hannan, and Kally McConkey.
- The Weebly website is now owned by the church and the church microphone system works in the church

*Cinnie Hill, clerk*

### Guild:

New Guild Officers are Susan Dillinger, Chairperson; Linda Chmiel, Chair-elect, Emily Benson, Recorder; and Kally McConkey, Treasurer.

Cookies by the Pound was very successful – we had 12 vendors who all expressed interest in coming back next year. We had fewer patrons that previous years but made more than our usual profit. Thank you to Linda Cobb for learning how to make Martha's cheese and to everyone else who helped make this year a very successful fund-raiser for our camp scholarship program. Our next meeting is January 15th.

### Sunday School:

Our annual Sunday School Epiphany Play will be presented as the sermon during the service on January 8<sup>th</sup>. This year's service was written by Margaret Benson and her family.

Eric will teach the younger students and Joyce will be teaching the older students.

*Myrline*

### Editor Comments:

We will be having Supply Priests for every Sunday until May except for January 1st. I will begin looking for priests as soon as the priests start scheduling for the following four months.

January will have lots of meetings: Vestry meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup>; Vestry meets with the Canon and Debbie for the priest search on the 15 along with Guild Meeting; Annual Meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Two Sharing Table breakfasts January 5 and 19

I am adding a Spiritual Reflection section with the help of Myrline Winkler and anyone else who cares to send items to me. *Cinnie Hill*

**Annual Meeting:**

Our annual meeting will be Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> during coffee hour. Everyone will receive the annual reports by email or mail. At the meeting, the presenter will answer questions regarding their report. No one is to re-present their report. In addition we will discuss the proposed budget; elect the new Vestry (one person for one year, two for three year terms), Convocation representatives (2 delegates and 2 alternates) and Church of Council members (two members). Please come to learn and to vote.

After the meeting, the Vestry meets to elect their officers, accept the proposed budget, and set the date for the next meeting.

**Community Health Ministry/ First Methodist Church Food Pantries:**

Please contribute to the collection box in Guild Hall once or twice a month with a couple cans/

# Sharing Table Breakfast: January 5 and 19, 7:30 -9:00 am.

**PLEASE HELP!!**

**Prayers:** (If you have someone needing prayers, please either email or tell Cinnie. Thank you)

*We pray for:* Anna Lea, David, Doreen, Jerry, Martha and family, Alice, Bernie, Kay, Lynn; Harley, KoKo, Mary Anna,

*We pray for our Military personnel:* Luke, Mike, Molly Lynn.

*We pray for our ministries:* Sharing Table Breakfasts

**BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY:**

Jan. 22-Erica Cobb  
26-Myrline Winkler

**ANNIVERSARIES:**

Jan. 24-Dave & Cinnie Hill Jan.

**JANUARY SCHEDULE**

Sunday, January 1 – Morning Prayer with Larry and Eric

Thursday, January 5: – 6:30 till done: Sharing Table Breakfast

Sunday, January 8- Father David Hodges will officiate and the Epiphany Play  
Vestry meets at 8:15 am

Thursday, January 18: – 6:30 till done: Sharing Table Breakfast

Sunday, January 15: Canon Torey Lighthouse will officiate

Vestry will meet with our Canon and Debbie Kremers &  
Guild Meeting is after the service

Thursday, January 18: – 6:30 till done: Sharing Table Breakfast

Sunday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> – Mother Casey Rohleder will officiate.

Annual Meeting during coffee hour.

Sunday, January 29-Father David Hodges will officiate

**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

11 am – 1:30 pm 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays – Quilting

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

Thursdays: 7:30 p.m. Cursillo Reunion Group

**Treasurer's Report:**

The following summary reflects the results of the operating fund, income and expense for the month of December 2016, with a budget comparison. (The Year-to-date includes the beginning balance on January 1st)

	Current month	Year-to-date	Budget
Income	\$ 6,890.74	\$ 75,388.63	\$ 62,870.65
Expense	\$ <u>37,711.30</u>	\$ <u>100,064.46</u>	\$ <u>65,270.65</u>
Difference	\$ 5,701.42	\$ 5,701.42	\$ (2,400.00)

To receive the Diocesan News twice a month, send an email with the subject "Dialog" to the Diocese Publications.  
[mwoerman@episcopal-ks.org](mailto:mwoerman@episcopal-ks.org)

### January, 2017, Service Duty List

	January 8	January 15	January 22	January 29	February 5
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Cinnie Hill Linda Chmiel	Joyce Elcock, Emily Benson	Laura Hannan, Myrline Winkler	Pat Frey, Cin- nie Hill	Linda Chmiel, Joyce Elcock
<b>Lay Reader</b>	Doug Benson	Doug Elcock	Myrline Winkler	Ed Dillinger	Larry Hannan
<b>Chalice Bearer</b>	Myrline Winkler	Larry Hannan	Joyce Elcock	Ed Dillinger	Myrline Winkler
<b>Greeter/ Usher</b>	Judy Hildreth	John Chmiel	Sherry Parr	Doug Elcock	Larry Hannan
<b>Coffee Host</b>	Elcocks	Winklers	McConkey	Hildreths	Chmeils

### Deep Incarnation (Very Deep!)

We need twelve days of Christmas to grasp the incredible miracle celebrated in this liturgical season. In fact, we probably need all of eternity!

I am so grateful that I took an astronomy class in college. I gained some sense of just how immensely vast God's creation is. The next closest star is about 4 light years away, that is, it takes the light from that sun four years to reach us. And light travels at 180,000 miles per second! We can now detect galaxies, collections of millions of stars, that are millions of light years away. String theory now poses that what we see is only one of a great number of dimensions.

God has much to care for. And yet God so deeply loves our human race, and has been so chagrined by the sad plight we have placed ourselves in, that the source of all that is, Creator and Ruler of the vast universe, chose to become one of us. Truly one of us. God would start human existence just like any of us do, as a fragile baby entirely dependent on the care of others.

What love is this? This Divine Love shatters the barrier between heavenly and earthly existence, once and for all time. God has entered into complete solidarity not only with human existence, but given the nature of our relationship with all of creation, God has become fully identified with everything God made. The Holy One can now be found everywhere, in everything, all the time.

In contemporary theology this concept is called “deep incarnation.” But it is nothing new. The theme of incarnation has been central to Anglican thought for quite some time. It has always been behind the sacramental thinking of representatives of our tradition. Anglican divines like [Lancelot Andrewes](#) have preached [many splendid Christmas sermons](#). It was definitely articulated in the 1880’s, when Oxford don (later Bishop) [Charles Gore](#) edited a groundbreaking volume entitled [Lux Mundi: The Religion of the Incarnation](#).

Gore and his colleagues argued that Christians have nothing to fear from historical study of the Bible, or modern science, because God is part and parcel of every sphere of human life and inquiry. They soon became convinced that God was present in the struggles of the working poor who had become so alienated from the Church. They lent their full support to thorough social reform, knowing that the body of Christ is called to be the continuation of the Incarnation. Their spiritual life with God was rooted in the Eucharist, for here time and again Christ Incarnate offers his very self to us, and we become One with Him. In fact we become Him, sharing the saving presence of God with the whole world.

I have pondered the miracle of the Christmas season for many years, and thanks to great thinkers like Gore, perhaps I can articulate it a bit better than I could earlier in my life. But I have no brain, no tongue, no pen that can ever adequately express the wonder, the sheer goodness and awesome grace, of the love of God that meets us in the manger of Bethlehem. I can only imagine how costly God’s love is.

Right away, on December 26, we remember the martyrdom of [Stephen](#), so cruelly crushed by stones due to his valiant testimony to God Incarnate. On December 28 we bow our heads as we [remember innocent children](#) cruelly slaughtered by the Herods of this world (today, in Syria....).

God has entered into all the vulnerability and pain of our existence. Jesus was a poor child, raised in a despised part of a province subjugated to all the evils of Roman colonial occupation. He was a worker (carpentry was not yet the skilled, respected craft it would later be, but involved hewing trees and hauling lumber). And of course he died on the Roman cross....This is how much God loves. I don’t know what else to say, except, in honor of Leonard Cohen, to offer my broken halleluias. And to give my very life to this wondrous love.

The Very Rev. Dr. Don H. Compier  
Dean