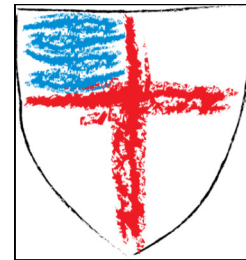


St. Luke's
Episcopal
Church

Remember, Day-
light Savings time
begins March
12th. Set you
clocks forward 1
hour.

St Luke's Newsletter



March, 2017

“To Know Christ and Make Christ Known”

Our Vestry Mem- bers:

- Thomas Brown
(Senior Warden),
- Linda Chmiel
(Junior Warden)
- Cinnie Hill
(Clerk), Claudia
McKinsey, Ed
Dillinger, Emily
Benson, Laura
Hannan

Observe a Holy Lent

The Very Reverend Dr. Don H. Compier
Dean, Bishop Kemper School for Ministry

On pages 264 and 265 of our Book of Common Prayer we find a concise statement of the purpose and nature of the season of Lent. It is important to distinguish between the end, the goal, and the means of getting there.

Page 264 states that our aim is to prepare for the proper observance of Holy Week, “the days of our Lord’s passion and resurrection.” I would add an additional desired outcome. The longest season of the Christian year stretches across summer and fall, from Pentecost Sunday to the first Sunday of Advent. We often call it “ordinary time,” but it is anything but ordinary! It is the culmination of the whole story of God’s work. Jesus Christ died and rose as the forerunner, the pioneer of our faith. We receive God’s Spirit to empower us, the people of the Church, to *become* Christ, to continue the gracious incarnation of God in our midst, the gift of *Immanuel*, God with all of humanity and indeed all of creation. We become agents of the sacred narrative!

While we receive power and guidance from God’s constantly present Spirit, that is a very big job! It requires careful preparation. This is what Lent is all about. Yes, it is an excellent time to prepare for Holy Baptism and confirmation. Yes, during Lent those who have sinned grievously can be reconciled to the Church, forgiven, and renewed. But all of us need, as the Prayer Book says, to “renew [our] repentance and faith.” Repentance can be a very scary word. Maybe we think we haven’t sinned all that much. We aren’t really that bad! Remember that the Greek word we translate as repentance, *metanoia*, means to turn, to change direction. We all need some course corrections! And faith means trust in God. To grow in faith is to deepen our loving relationships with the Holy One, our Creator and Redeemer. God is infinite, God’s love has no bounds, and so we should always grow more and more in love with God. We have more and more confidence in God and an ever stronger desire to serve God and to love all those whom God loves—everybody!

The Biblical story constantly reminds us that we repent and deepen our faith by *following Jesus*. The first disciples prepared by accompanying Jesus to Jerusalem. It was a very dangerous journey. They did not know how things would turn out. Jesus warned them that following him required taking up one’s cross. Peter and all the gang had seen the horrible deaths by torture the Roman occupiers inflicted by means of crucifixion, so they knew exactly what Jesus was suggesting. And yet they followed him. Even though it is pretty clear to us that they really didn’t understand why! Not yet. And so in Lent we follow Jesus for forty days, with Holy Week looming ahead. Whatever else we may do, during Lent we must spend all possible quality time with Jesus. “Listen to him,” the voice on the mountain declares. He is the One. We may not really grasp what we are doing, not yet. Lent requires us to

faithfully follow nonetheless.

The Prayer Book offers a number of concrete practices that help us keep our attention on Jesus. Page 265 mentions “self-examination and repentance...prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and... reading and meditating on God’s holy Word. Remember, none of these activities are ends in themselves. They are means to the vital end of getting closer to Jesus, trusting more and more, adjusting our course to be closer and closer to his route, so that when “ordinary” time comes we take on the extra-ordinary work of God. To accomplish this purpose, we take a hard look at ourselves. How does our life conform to Christ, and where do we need to adjust our course? We pray, that is, we converse regularly with God. Remember that prayer is more about listening than talking! Fasting and self-denial means letting go of anything (not just food!) that occupies too much of our attention and desire, getting in the way of our walk with Jesus. I always give up listening to music during Lent, not because there is anything wrong with God’s marvelous gift of song, but because I want to listen more closely to the Divine Voice. God’s holy word, the Bible, tells us the story of Jesus. We want to become more and more familiar with the events of Jesus’ life, his deeds and his teachings. We want to become saturated by the Word, so that it becomes part of our whole being, not just our head.

When we faithfully observe Lent, we find that the stereotype our culture has is totally wrong. Lent is not somber, not a big downer. On the contrary, as we follow Jesus more and more closely, we experience true joy. We discover who we really are, *whose* we really are, what we were really meant to be. Lent is a time of enormous refreshment and release! Don’t miss it!

May each of you be richly blessed on the exciting journey ahead. There is no greater adventure! In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, amen.

Junior Warden’s Report:

We had B & G Engineering stop by Tues Feb.21. They are putting together an estimate for the settling of the church walls. Also, we know that is why the west stained glass window is buckling.

On the lighter side, please notice the ceiling lights in Guild hall and the kitchen. It is at least 40% brighter. It just makes a person happier to walk into the room. We, the Vestry, chose to go with T8 fluorescent bulbs and fittings, rather than the more expensive LED lighting that would have required all new fixtures. It appears to have been the correct choice. We, the vestry, hope all of our members are pleased. The Vestry is here for you and the betterment of the church.

Linda Chmiel

Senior Warden’s Report:

What I thought would be a normal task has turned out to be one of the most interesting adventures in life for me. When I was voted on to be the Senior Warden I know I had some work to be done. To my surprise I was told I had to run the church until the new Rector was brought on board. Talking about stepping out and taking the bull by the horns. God put this on my heart to do and so it’s time for me to grow. We are putting together the Rector Search committee. We’ll end up with three members from the congregation and one member from the vestry. We hope to have a well-balanced group for this project.

We have the Stain Glass Window Committee which has a new bid to review. This team will need to determine which one they feel is best for us all and let us know. I pray for God’s grace on this group of people.

Emily and Larry have been working on the OTM (This is the form that’s given to Debbie to help us get matched up with candidates for Rector) for our church. Larry has told me that Emily is an excellent writer. So I want to thank both Emily and Larry for working on this for us.

I would also like to take the time to thank the entire congregation for the donations to the Sharing Table. We are serving on the average of 30 people per meal. Without your support some these people may not have a home cooked meal two days out of the month.

Thomas Brown

Lenten Soup and Study:

We will be offering a Lenten Study on Wednesday evenings at 6:00, beginning March 8th, gathering for soup and watching the DVD while eating.

Embracing Spiritual Awakening -

By Diana Butler Bass (DVD and Discussion!)

Program Schedule:

March 8: Waking Up
 March 15: Believing
 March 22: Behaving
 March 29: Belonging
 April 5: Awakening

Vestry:

The following motions were approved by the Vestry unanimously:

the replacement of the Guild Hall and Kitchen lights to T8 fluorescent bulbs.

Kaw Valley bank signatures to Doug, Thomas, and Linda for our checking and savings; and to Doug and Thomas for the discretionary fund accounts.

Doug Elcock to proceed with obtaining a bid for the building jacking.

the annual parochial report

the dog therapy program for Beth Galligan (more information below)

to move the Vestry meeting time to after church

The stained glass window project is on hold until we get the bid to complete the foundation work. The priest search committee will be formed by the next Vestry meeting.

Cinnie Hill, clerk

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, Sarah, Alice, Kay, Lynn; Curtis, Pat, Sherry, Dick S, Harley, Jeff, Jillian, John, KoKo, Mary Anna, Pat S, Sara, Libby

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

We pray for our ministries: Episcopal Relief and Development.

BIRTHDAYS IN March:

March 13 □ Beth Galligan

ANNIVERSARIES:

March 17 □ Ed & Cheri Pugh

MARCH SCHEDULE

Wednesday, March 1st – 7 pm Ash Wednesday - Mother Casey Rohleder will officiate

Thursday, March 2 – 6:30 till done: Sharing Table Breakfast

Sunday, March 5: – Mother Casey Rohleder will officiate

Guild Meeting is after the service

Wednesday March 8 – 6 PM Soup and Lenten Study – Waking Up

Sunday, March 12- Father David Hodges will officiate

Vestry meets after the service

Wednesday March 15 – 6 PM Soup and Lenten Study - Believing

Thursday, March 16: – 6:30 till done: Sharing Table Breakfast

Sunday, March 19: Father David Hodges will officiate.

Wednesday March 8 – 6 PM Soup and Lenten Study - Behaving

Sunday, March 22 – Mother Casey Rohleder will officiate

Wednesday March 8 – 6 PM Soup and Lenten Study – Belonging

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

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 January 2017, with a budget comparison. (The Year-to-date includes the beginning balance on January 1st)

	Current month	Year-to-date	Budget
Income	\$ 16,936.59	\$ 16,936.59	\$ 71,201.00
Expense	\$ <u>4,573.17</u>	\$ <u>4,573.17</u>	\$ <u>51,144.00</u>
Difference	\$ 12,363.42	\$ 12,363.42	\$ 20,057.00

Sharing Table:

Sharing Table Breakfast: March 2 and 16.
Please continue to help with this wonderful ministry to the community.

Guild:

Next meeting will be March 5th after the service

Susan Dillinger

Editor's Comments:

One of my favorite activities during Lent is to play Lenten Madness as described on the website: Here's how to participate: on the weekdays of Lent, information is posted at www.lentmadness.org about two different saints. Each pairing remains open for 24 hours as participants read about and then vote to determine which saint moves on to the next round. Sixteen saints make it to the Round of the Saintly Sixteen; eight advance to the Round of the Elate Eight; four make it to the Faithful Four; two to the Championship; and the winner is awarded the coveted Golden Halo.

The first round consists of basic biographical information about each of the 32 saints. Things get a bit more interesting in the subsequent rounds as we offer quotes and quirks, explore legends, and even move into the area of saintly kitsch.

Join the fun!!!

Cinnie Hill

Dear Parish Family,

I have a new puppy, Flynt, and I am going through the same training with him that I did with Seamus and Moss. Some of you will remember Seamus didn't have the disposition for Therapy Dog work, but Moss spent several years listening to children read at the Manhattan Public Library. I don't know if Flynt will have the disposition for Therapy Dog work, but we are going to see how training goes.

Therapy Dogs serve their communities through a variety of venues. They volunteer to visit hospital patients, staff, and visiting family members to bring them joy and comfort in stressful times. They listen to children read and provide comfort to children in schools and libraries. They visit with waiting family members at surgical centers while loved ones are undergoing surgery. They visit nursing home and other care facility residents. They visit with patients undergoing chemotherapy and dialysis to help the time pass more quickly.

It is said that a Therapy Dog is born, not made. They must have the disposition to love spending time quietly with people and being gently pet. That being said, all Therapy Dogs must receive extensive training and pass an exam with a national or local Therapy Dog organization before they can serve their communities. I look forward to you helping me teach Flynt the basics of Therapy Dog work. While he is learning the rules, he must sit or lie down quietly to greet people before petting is offered. He should not put his paws up on people unless given a command. He should not lick or mouth people. Part of Therapy Dog work involves being careful to not transfer illnesses from one hospital patient to another.

Flynt & I will sit at the back so we can slip out unobtrusively if need be. Flynt will heel up with me & sit or lie down by my side for Eucharist. Training structure for him is very similar to that for service dog puppies. During church the goal is for no one to know he is there. During the coffee hour our time will be split with him greeting people and him doing a down/stay ignoring people as they mill around the parish hall.

Thank you all for your time and assistance,

Beth Galligan

Sunday School teachers for March:

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

Myrline

To receive the Diocesan News twice a month, send an email with the subject "Diolog" to the Diocese Publications. mwoerman@episcopal-ks.org

Wednesday Evening Potluck and Ministry:



The Wednesday night group noticed that a lot of our church's recycling was being thrown away instead. So, to make it easier for everyone, we put out some new containers and made some colorful signs to point them out! Look for the buckets in the Guild Hall, the Sunday School room, and the foyer area beside the sanctuary. As a reminder, recyclables include paper, cardboard, plastics 1-5, tin and aluminum cans. We've seen an increase in recycling already. Thank you!

Emily

March, 2017, Service Duty List

	March 5	March 12	March 19	March 26	
Altar Guild	Joyce Elcock, Emily Benson	Laura Hannan, Myrline Winkler	Cinnie Hill, Linda Chmiel	Joyce Elcock, Emily Benson	
Lay Reader	Doug Benson	Myrline Winkler	Ed Dillinger	Larry Hannan	
Chalice Bearer	Myrline Winkler	Larry Hannan	Joyce Elcock	Ed Dillinger	
Greeter/ Usher	Doug Elcock	Larry Hannan	John Chmiel	Judy Hildreth	
Coffee Host	Winklers	McConkeys	Chmiels	Hildreths	

St. Luke's Supply Priest's Schedule

JANUARY 2017

- 1st The Holy Name – Morning Prayer
- 8th First Sunday after the Epiphany- Father David Hodges
- 15th Second Sunday after the Epiphany- Canon Torey Lightcap
- 22nd Third Sunday after the Epiphany- Mother Casey Rohleder
- 29th Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany- Father David Hodges

FEBRUARY

- 5th Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany- Father David Hodges
- 12th Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany- Father David Hodges
- 19th Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany- Mother Casey Rohleder
- 26th Last Sunday after the Epiphany- Father Don Compier

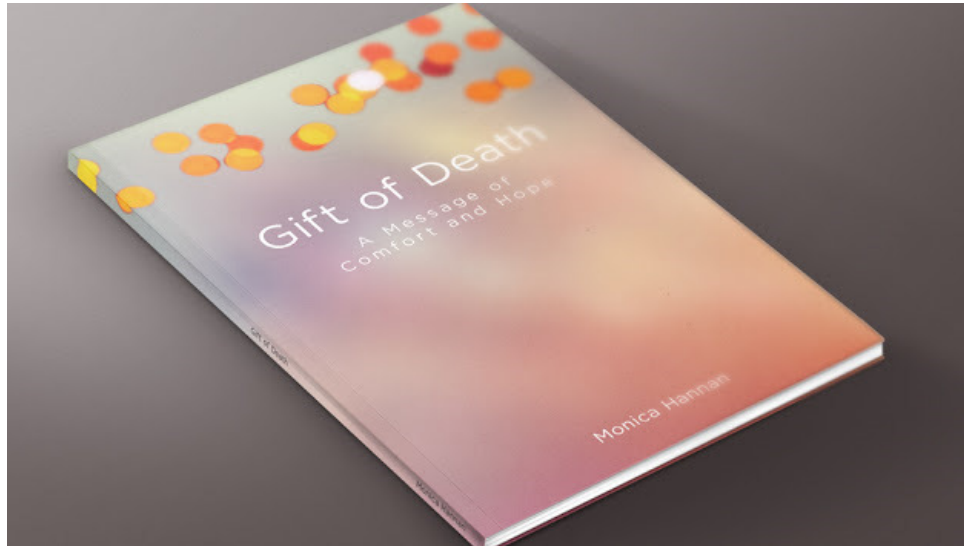
MARCH

- 1st Ash Wednesday 7 pm service - Mother Casey Rohleder
- 5th First Sunday in Lent- Mother Casey Rohleder
- 12th Second Sunday in Lent- Father David Hodges
- 19th Third Sunday in Lent- Father David Hodges
- 26th Fourth Sunday in Lent- Mother Casey Rohleder

APRIL

- 2nd Fifth Sunday in Lent- Father Don Compier
- 9th Palm Sunday – Father Mark Jeske
- 20th Maundy Thursday – Mother Casey Rohleder
- 21st Good Friday – Mother Casey Rohleder
- 16th Easter Day – Mother Casey Rohleder
- 23rd Second Sunday of Easter- Father Don Compier
- 30th Third Sunday of Easter- Father Don Compier

Monica Hannan will be available to discuss her thoughts and research at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 700 Lincoln, Wamego, KS at 8:00 am on May 15th. If you ever thought about death you will be intrigued.



**Gift of Death – A Message of Comfort and Hope
By Monica Hannan**

“Monica Hannan has an inimitable way of blending accessibility and relevance – what folks would be interested in reading – with a kind of popular theological perspective which raises and probes important questions. As I made my way through the manuscript, it reminded me of so many occurrences and experiences in my own life and ministry, which is a signal to me that the book will be a true service to its readers.” –Monsignor James P. Shea, President, University of Mary

Gift of Death – A Message of Comfort and Hope talks in plain terms about the experience of dying, but also offers proof that our lives don't end here. Blending storytelling with Christian doctrine, the book not only gets the discussion started for families uncomfortable with the topic of death, but also pulls the reader through to its uplifting and comforting conclusion. It shows the reader that eternal life is what God wants for each of us and that getting there should not be a frightening process.

“My father was afraid of death, and in my family we weren't comfortable talking about it. So, as a journalist, I decided to attack the problem with the written word. I knew that if I wrote a book, he would read it. I conducted dozens of interviews with priests, ministers, doctors, Hospice workers, those who work with the dying, those who had died and come back, and those who had lost loved ones to death. In the process of writing it, my own father died. That may seem tragic, but the book itself is much stronger because it contains his story. There are no coincidences in death, and I have come to believe this was by design, a gift from the Holy Spirit to me. The experiences I had have convinced me beyond a shadow of a doubt that not only is there life after death, but also that there's no reason to fear it. God wants us with him and if we also want that, he will make sure it happens. That's the message of this book.” – Monica Hannan, Author

Gift of Death – A Message of Comfort and Hope talks in plain terms about the experience of dying, but also offers proof that our lives don't end here. Blending storytelling with Catholic/Christian doctrine, the book not only gets the discussion started for families uncomfortable with the topic of death, but also pulls the reader through to its uplifting and comforting conclusion. It shows the reader that eternal life is what God wants for each of us and that getting there should not be a frightening process.

Price: \$14.99

Contact: mhannan@kfyrtv.com/701-220-8253