

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

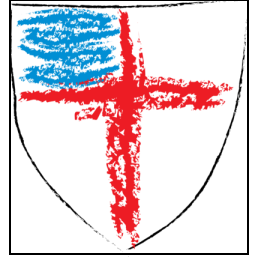
May, 2017

“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

St Luke's Newsletter



Spiritual Reflection: (Rev. Don H. Compier, Dean, Bishop Kemper School for Ministry)

Meeting Christ this Easter Season

The startling, world-shattering reality we celebrate during the Easter season demands action! Thinking about it and talking about it just will not do! Christ lives in this imperfect community we call Church, the Body of Christ. Jesus feeds the hungry. Jesus clothes the naked. Jesus welcomes strangers with open arms. Our Lord never laments scarce resources. Confronted with stark need, he takes whatever is available—a loaf, some mud, someone else's table, a story, a touch. He never turns away from a suffering human being. Nor can we. We must *show* that the Lord is risen indeed!

Curiously, when we treat human beings in a human way, we find that Christ is present in them too. The great cloud of witnesses across the centuries affirms that whenever we do it to the least of these, we encounter Jesus alive in the faces of all in anguish and pain. In hospitals and prisons and slums all over the world Christ is risen!

Perhaps the hardest thing for us to learn is that the people of Syria, and Central America and Mexico, and the left behind parts of our nation, and South Sudan, and North Korea, and all places of unjust, dreadful suffering *bring the Easter message to us*. It may seem that Easter has not yet come to them, that they are still living the realities of Good Friday, under the cross. And in a sense that is certainly true. Yet upon closer examination we discover that the power of the resurrection is clearly already at work in their midst. The unbelievable resilience of the victims, the power of life present among the sorely oppressed and grieving, the flames of hope that cannot be put out, the love that endures the worst to keep on loving, all proclaim loudly: “Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!” Good Friday will end. The third day will arrive. God will never allow death and destruction to have the last word. Violence and injustice have no future. Life wins! Love wins!

The New Testament accounts of the Resurrection show us that Easter means conversion, radical reorientation. Paul is perhaps the best example, but all of the disciples found a courage they did not have before. As they learned to humbly listen, they too became effective witnesses to the resurrection. I pray that this will be our experience in this season of Easter. Let us hear the voices of the aggrieved, the traumatized, the marginalized and forgotten. Jesus is one of them. He lives there with them. They are his co-teachers. And they shall rise! They shall overcome! The future belongs to them!

Easter is a time to discern larger vocations than we had previously imagined. We have seen how the Apostle Thomas had his personal encounter with the risen Lord. According to tradition, he was so changed by this experience, his vision was so greatly expanded, that he went all the way to In-

dia to bear witness to the good news of God's love incarnate in Jesus. There he gave his life up even unto death in the service of his risen Master. What big job does God have for us? Easter tells us that our fears and our excuses cannot stand in the way. If God has vanquished even death, we have nothing to fear. Nothing should hold us back. We can embrace the exciting destiny that God has for each one of us.

Easter does not mean that taking up our cross is no longer necessary. No, we have really only just begun. The Resurrection empowers us to become Jesus in the world. At Pentecost we will celebrate receiving God's Spirit, taking up permanent residence in each one of us and in our church community as a whole. And then it is our turn, we become God's incarnation! We do the work of Christ today. While we live in fervent hope, discipleship is never easy. Many trials and tribulations lie ahead. Inevitably, at times we will feel discouraged.

This is why the story of the road to Emmaus is such an important part of our Easter experience. When we are downcast and despondent, Jesus will always come to us. We will know him in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Easter is a time to renew our commitment to daily Bible reading. We believe that God's Word comes to us through this ancient collection of texts, powerfully inspiring us and guiding us for daily Christian living. And Easter calls us to renew our commitment to celebration of the sacraments. In ordinary bread and wine Jesus comes to us, Jesus becomes an integral part of our very being. Time and again

Senior Warden's Report: Hi all , In the past month, our church has been very busy. We now have Jay as a co-chair of the window committee. We also are doing two soil samples to see how far down the bedrock in on the west side. We are also seeing how much weight it can take which will help us find a base cost to support it. We are only looking at doing from the bell tower to the handicap door. This is the main area we need repaired.

Our search committee is doing a great job of getting all the paper work done which we need to find a new rector. The process is slow and it will take some time. They are following what the diocese would like us to do. Please let them do Gods work for us and give them your prayers as they go forward.

This summer we are going to have the children's corner start up. Josephine and Margaret are the two writers of this new area. I have given them full range on this so it will be nice to see what come up. They can even interview you.

I am writing an article which will not be ready for this newsletter however when I have it completed and proofread I will give it to Cinnie to send out. I hope you all will enjoy it.

This is all I have for this Month.

Vestry: reported by Cinnie Hill

- The Vestry approved moving \$10,000 from general funds to the Capital Funds designated for the construction project.
- We will be holding a Sharing Table breakfast on Sunday, May 28th after the service.
- The Vestry approved purchasing a bible for Levi Hannan's graduation.

Guild:

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Easter Brunch!

Next meeting will be May 7th after the service

Sharing Table:

Sharing Table Breakfast will be May 4 and 18.

Please continue to help with this wonderful ministry to the community.

Update from the **Rector Search Committee:** We have finished writing our Parish Profile, which gives interested priests more information about the church and community. It's been submitted to the Office of Transition Ministry. From what we understand, we are now waiting on applicants. We'll continue to update you as we get more information.

Thanks,

Emily, Doug, Larry, Kally and Myrline

News from the Window Committee:

- The window finance committee has met and is planning ways to raise money for the window/foundation restoration. The committee has lots of ideas and enthusiasm.
- Look for a lemonade stand in front of the church on the 4th of July!
- Look for a Mexican Dinner to celebrate Mexico's Independence Day, in September. Doug and Cele will head this up. We all will help.
- At some point, we will apply for grants. Father Art will help with this.
- If you have ideas for the fund raising, tell someone on the committee.
- Doug has created a building fund as part of our church treasury. You may contribute to this at any time!
Please keep all of this in your prayers.....
With God's Help.....

Myrline

Editor Comments:

We are serving the Sharing Table Breakfast on Sunday, May 28th after the service. We welcome everyone attending the service to stay and join in the fellowship and meal of from our twice monthly free community breakfast.

Larry Hannan's sister, Monica has written the following book *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. Price: \$14.99 Order online from Amazon or Contact: mhannan@kfyrtv.com/701-220-8253
She will be at St. Luke's to talk about the book May 15th at 8 am.

PFC Hannan, Luke, Rm 110; A BTRY 2-130th FA (MoB); 1011 Chafee Road, Fort Bliss TX 79916; USA Luke can have mail; He can't have booze, tobacco or porn. Anything else yes!!

Come and experience Cursillo. June 30-July 2 = The 3 day shortened version.
Ask and we can answer any and all questions. Talk to Larry or Laura.

Help CMH by volunteering to de-head the tulips so they can be dug up and the community can obtain them through CMH.

Farmer's Market, located in WTC parking lot, will be open for every Saturday beginning May 6th until the end of August.

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; Sherry and children: Allen, Carla, Dawn, Dick S, Gary, Harley, Jeff, Jillian and family, John, KoKo, Mickey and Lisa, Officer Thomas, Pat S, Nathan, Robin, Sara, Stacey, Sue

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

We pray for our ministries: Episcopal Connection to Haiti .

We pray for those struggling with grief or loss: The family of Mary Anna

BIRTHDAYS IN May:

May 2 – James O'Konski
May 3 - Linda Chmiel
May 8 - Dave Hill
May 15 - Cheri Pugh

May 20-Martha Miller
May 20-Levi Hannan
May 23 Laura Benson
May 24-Larry Hannan

ANNIVERSARIES:

MAY SCHEDULE

Thursday, May 4th – 7:30-9 Sharing Table

Sunday, May 7th – Mother Kay Dagg will officiate

Vestry meeting after the service

Wednesday May 8 – 6 pm Potluck and Children's activity

Sunday, May 14th – Mother Kay Dagg will officiate

Wednesday, May 19th – 6pm - Potluck 6 pm Potluck and Children's activity

Thursday, May 20th – 6:30 till done: Sharing Table Breakfast

Sunday, May 21st – Morning Prayer with Claudia as Officiant and Eric as Lector

Graduation Reception for Levi Hannan after the service.

Wednesday May 24th – 6 pm Potluck and Children's Ministry returns

Sunday, May 28th – Mother Casey Rohleder officiates

Sharing Table Breakfast and Fellowship following the service

Upcoming Events - Book Discussion by Monica Hannan

- Monday May 15th 8:00 am - Monica Hannan will discuss her new book: "The Gift of Death" in Guild Hall. Invite community members to attend.
- Cursillo Weekend on June 30-July 2nd. See the Hannans for details.

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

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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/boxes of food. If you elect to deliver food and paper supplies directly to the food pantries, please give credit for a donation from St. Luke's. Thank you.

Council of Churches is seeking volunteers with one or more hours a week, to assist in the Food Pantry at UMC. Check with Ed or Jay, if interested

Sunday School teachers for April:

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

Myrline

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

A Spiritual Reflection: (sent to me by one of our parishioners.)

Never Forsaken by Emily Williams

Easter is a celebration of certainties for Christians. We know that the resurrection of Jesus provides evidence that he can heal physical diseases – *By his stripes we are healed.* (Is. 53:5) We know that our eternal life is secured because of his rising from the dead.

But we come to God in prayer, oftentimes, with very real human hurts. We feel let down by our friends, or maybe we have been actually betrayed. This can take many forms in our lives: we can have expectations of people, and they don't come through for us. We might count on our close friends to understand, to be gracious, to make time for us – and they don't seem to get it, they are resentful, or they are busy.

We even come to God, sometimes, uncertain of whether he is really available to us. Is he listening? Does he care? Or has he, too, let us down?

The story of Holy Week shows us a powerful dimension of God's trustworthiness for us. Consider this: Jesus's friends let him down in the Garden of Gethsemane – "Can you not watch with me for even one hour?" (Matt 26:40) One of his closest friends betrayed him – turned him over to his enemies – "Would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?" (Luke 22:48) And another close friend denied even knowing him. Jesus was abandoned by those he was closest to, humanly speaking, in his greatest time of need of their support and companionship.

More than that, Jesus experienced God's rejection. God turned his back on him while he was doing that very thing, that hardest thing, that he was asked to do – "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Matt. 27:46)

But Jesus's resurrection proves this for us: We have the promise of God's presence, always and always, no matter what circumstances come our way, because Jesus was rejected, forsaken by God. There is nothing that we suffer, no disappointment, rejection, emotional hurt that we experience that Jesus himself did not experience. Jesus was rejected by God so that we will NEVER be rejected by God. He was forsaken, abandoned by God, so that we will NEVER be forsaken or abandoned by God. We may feel as if we are let down, betrayed, abandoned by our friends – but we will never, ever be rejected by God.

God is with us. God is always with us. He wants to be with us. He yearns for us to be certain of his presence.

And in the culmination of all of human history, when there is a new heavens and a new earth, it is our presence that makes God rejoice most: "Behold, his dwelling place is with man." (Rev. 21:3)

So when we pray, we are praying to a loving God who sits beside us, whose hand is in ours, whose arm is around our shoulders. He is listening intently, he looks into our eyes. He remembers, he is encouraging, he loves us no matter how hurt or messed up we feel. Jesus has made sure of this for us. Jesus has made sure of this for us.

May, 2017 Service Duty List

	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28	June 4
Altar Guild	Joyce Elcock, Emily Benson	Laura Hannan, Myrline Winkler	Cinnie Hill, Linda Chmiel	Joyce Elcock, Emily Benson	Laura Hannan, Myrline Winkler
Lay Reader	Doug Elcock	Myrline Winkler	Ed Dillinger	Larry Hannan	Pat Frey
Chalice Bearer	Larry Hannan	Joyce Elcock	Ed Dillinger	Myrline Winkler	Larry Hannan
Greeter/ Usher	John Chmiel	Sherry Parr	Doug Elcock	Larry Hannan	Judy Hildreth
Coffee Host	Winklers	McConkeys	Hildreths	Sharing Table	Chmiels