St. Luke's Episcopal Church is a Christian community composed of free thinkers who include conservatives, moderates, liberals, skeptics, believers & atheists. All are welcome!

St. Luke's Weekly Magazine
December 22, 2019
Please take this home with you today.

“God speaks to each of us as he makes us, then walks with us silently out of the night. These are the words we dimly hear: You, sent out beyond your recall, go to the limits of your longing. Embody me.
Flare up like a flame and make big shadows I can move in.

Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror. Just keep going. No feeling is final. Don't let yourself lose me.
Nearby is the country they call life. You will know it by its seriousness.
Give me your hand.”
Rainer Maria Rilke

Annunciation: Fra Angelico
In Need of Prayer or Home Communion?
St. Luke’s Prayer Ministers are available during the 10:30 AM service to pray with you. If you would like a name added to our Prayer Chain or someone who needs Home Communion, contact Beckie in the Church Office.

PLEASE PRAY FOR............

THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY:
Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Scott, our Diocesan Bishop and for ALL the people and parishes in our diocese. Pray especially for the clergy and people of St. Peter’s Church in Clearfield. And for all people within the world-wide Anglican Communion; pray for Christians in other denominations and the work of the ecumenical movement.

OUR NATION & ITS LEADERS:
Our government leaders that they may live & work in a spirit of calm reason & cooperation on behalf of the common good.

THOSE WHO ARE FACING SUFFERING & HARDSHIP:
Robert+++ (husband of Iris Thompson), Jennifer++++ (Strachan), Randy & Dave++++ (brothers of Beckie Raemer), Jane+++ (friend of Leslie Wood) Julie+++ (niece of Don Wood) Urs+++ (brother in law of Stacey Reko) Gabrielle++ (daughter of Bernadette Rothman), Fred+++ (brother in law of Linda Sears) Derrell++++ (Reeves), Melissa & Mike+++ (daughter and son-in-law of the Jennings) Beckie+++ (Raemer) Von+ (friend of Derrell & Teddi Reeves)

THE HUMAN COMMUNITY AROUND THE WORLD:
† Pray for our nation and the whole human community that we may find the wisdom to live in greater respect and harmony with each other and our planet home.
† For safety and recovery for all people effected by natural disasters throughout the world.
† For healing for every soul captured by fear, bigotry and resentment. May we all develop the ability to see the Sacred in those most different from ourselves.

THOSE WHO HAVE DIED......

PLEASE GIVE THANKS FOR.....
Our Women’s Social Gathering Leader, Harriet Stephens and her family.

For those having Birthdays this week: Frank Buckler on Tuesday and Carol Syroid on Saturday.

If your birthday does not appear on our list, please notify Beckie in the office so that she can add it.
The Scriptures
Advent 4a - December 22, 2019

COLLECT OF THE DAY: On this final Sunday of Advent, we remember that Jesus was born during a time of tyranny and corruption within his own nation and the Empire. We pray for the faith to find a way to work together to lift up and live in accordance with those virtues that heal and sustain a community for the blessing of everyone; with Jesus our Brother, Teacher and Lord. Amen.

FROM THE HEBREW TRADITION:
Our passage from the Hebrew tradition comes from the 7th chapter of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. Please read with me by reading the parts in bold print.

Again the Lord spoke to , saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.”
Here ends the reading.

FROM THE LETTERS OF PAUL:
Please read with me by reading the parts in bold print.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name, including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ, To all God’s beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Here ends the reading.

FROM THE CHRISTIAN GOSPELS: Matthew 1:18-25
Priest: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Matthew.
People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.
Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way.

When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

OFFERTORY SENTENCES:
Priest: Now my brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, when you come to the Table of the Lord come not only to receive the presence of the Lord, but also to give your life completely to Him. As Jesus said, “The greatest commandments are these.”
People: You shall love the Lord your God with all you heart, soul and mind; and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

[Hebrew & Christian scripture passages are reprinted with permission from the World Council of Churches. Passages and commentary from World Scriptures were edited by Andrew Wilson.]
You can now make a donation directly from your mobile phone, computer or a tablet.
Go to our new website: www.stlukesparkcity.org

to make a one time donation or set up a recurring donation from a credit card or checking account.
You can also text the word "Give" to 385-219-4489 to make a donation right from your phone.

ANNUAL ST. LUKE’S EVALUATION:
It’s that time of year. We will collect your thoughts, feedback and good ideas from now until January 1st. The survey has these 7 questions. It should take no more than 5 to 10 minutes to complete. To fill it out, put this web address in your browser: https://www.surveymonkey.com/PMZW7HG

TWO ADDITIONAL VESTRY NOMINEES ARE NEEDED:
If you are a member of St. Luke’s and you have not yet served on the Vestry (or if it's been a long time since you served), will you please volunteer to be nominated. Terms are for 3 years duration. To volunteer or for more information call Charles+ 435-901-2131.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:
You will find info about our church and what to expect when you visit. www.stlukesparkcity.org. There is information about our missions, finances and programs. You can view previous sermons through a link to YouTube on your phone or home computer. Go to YouTube, St Luke’s Episcopal Church Park City, UT.

AUTUMN GOSPEL GROUP
FOR WOMEN 50ish & UP: Autumn Gospel meets the fourth Saturday morning of each month from 10 to noon, in members' homes. We use books as a springboard to share and discuss our own spiritual journeys at this stage of our lives. For more info please call Nancy Conrow, nancy.conrow@gmail.com or 435-640-0556.

SHOP AT SMITH'S FOOD & DRUG & FLOURISH BAKERY WILL RECEIVE A DONATION!
To participate in the program, visit the Smith's Food & Drug website, log into your account, click on INSPIRING DONATION PROGRAM, search for Flourish Bakery SLCC by name (or use HE559, the Bakery’s nonprofit number with Smith's). Every time you use your fresh values card related to your account, Smith's will donate .5% of your purchase to Flourish Bakery. It's that simple! Flourish appreciates your support and this inspiring program.

CONSIDERING JOINING THE ST. LUKE'S COMMUNITY? JUST WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH?
Our rector would be delighted to make an appointment to meet with you. He will do his best to answer your questions and to help you to feel welcomed and included at St. Luke's. When you are ready to have a conversation, just let him know at either: pastor@stlukespc.org or 435-901-2131.

CENTERING PRAYER:
Meets Friday mornings at 10:00 AM in the Library. Please join us in this contemplative practice of Holy Silence.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN THE CHOIR?
St. Luke’s Church Choir is looking for new members! A love of singing is the only requirement, although the ability to read music would be helpful. Whether you are a soprano, alto, tenor or bass, you’ll be most welcome! We meet to practice at 9am each Sunday, plus Thursdays at 6pm if you can make it. If you are interested, please see Manuel after the service, or email him at pianospecialists@gmail.com.

ST. LUKE’S CARE GUILD:
If you or someone you know has any requests or needs, please contact Katherine at katherinemartz@comcast.net or Harriet, harrietmstephens@gmail.com, (435) 655-1888.

WOMEN’S GATHERING:
We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM. Bring an appetizer and a drink to share.

WEDNESDAY EVENING WOMEN’S BOOK STUDY:
The women's Wednesday night bible study will be using "Advent: The Weary World Rejoices" by Lifeway Women for our advent study. We will meet in the library from 6:30 to 7:45 on January 8. We will not meet December 25th or January 1st due to the holidays. For more information, please contact Mary Parsons at Mary.Parsons@hsc.utah.edu. All are welcome.

CHRISTIAN CENTER FOOD PANTRY:
Please bring canned goods and non perishables to St Luke's as we will be making regular donations to the Christian Center's food pantry. Please donate only the kinds of foods you would want to feed your own family. Let's fill the red wagon each week in the foyer! PCHS senior, John Reko, will be picking up our donations and making regular deliveries to the Christian Center. Thanks for supporting this important ministry!

ROAD HOME - MEN'S RESOURCE CENTER:
3380 South 1000 West, South Salt Lake, UT, 84119
No food to prepare, meals are provided. Responsibility is to serve the food (cafeteria style.) Any individual, group of friends or organizations can signup for a time slot. Call me with any questions. Teresa McMillan, 678-575-3781.

PLEASE JOIN ONE OF THE ST. LUKE’S DINNER GROUPS (a.k.a. Shepherding Groups)
There are numerous dinner groups at St. Luke’s that meet a few times each year for conversation and friendship building. If you would like to participate in one of our parish’s dinner groups, please contact Beckie in the Church Office at 435-649-4900 Ext. 12 or at beckie@stlukespc.org. All are welcome!