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 8, 2019
Please take this home with you today.

Love God….Think for Yourself!

Salvador Dali, Girl at a window

For the darkness of waiting
  of not knowing what is to come
  of staying ready and quiet and attentive,
  we praise you, O God:

  For the darkness and the light
  are both alike to you.

  For the darkness of hoping
  in a world which longs for you,
  for the wrestling and laboring of all creation
  for wholeness and justice and freedom,
  we praise you, O God.

  For the darkness and the light
  Are both alike to you.

Janet Morely, Imaging the Word

In contrast to the solid frame on the window of the room in which the girl looks, leads away from her safe harbor to an unending vista of light and sea and sky.

TO OUR GUESTS - WELCOME - THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE TODAY!
All spiritual seekers who are searching for an approach to faith that makes the most sense to them personally are welcome here!
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 ministry of food banks and meal programs throughout the diocese. And for all people within the world-wide Anglican Communion; pray for the work of the Mothers’ Union around the world.

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++++ (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)

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……
Pray for the Repose of the Soul of Steve Hamilton, husband of Jane Hamilton.

PLEASE GIVE THANKS FOR…..
Our A Course in Miracles Study Leader, Ann Fiery and her family.

For those having Birthdays this week:
Jan Casey and Andrew Pratt on Monday; Mackirin Mick on Tuesday; Jim Bolton on Wednesday and Roger Stephens on Saturday.
The Scriptures
Advent 2a - December 8, 2019

COLLECT OF THE DAY:  Rabbi Jonathan Sacks once noted that religion can be a powerful force for good until it becomes interested in power. We pray with John the Baptist that we may find the courage to confront whatever is untrue, corrupt or hurtful within our own religious tradition so that we may walk humbly and live continually in the presence of Love-Itself; with Jesus our Brother, Teacher and Lord. Amen.

FROM THE HEBREW TRADITION:
Our passage from the Hebrew tradition comes from the 11th chapter of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. Please read with me by reading the parts in bold print.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, and the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The wolf shall be as an herald of peace, and the bear shall feed on locusts. They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious. Here ends the reading.

FROM THE BUDDHIST TRADITION:
Please read with me by reading the parts in bold print.

They will practice these virtues: abstain from taking life, abstain from taking what is not given, abstain from adultery, abstain from lying, abstain from evil speaking, abstain from abuse and from idle talk, abstain from covetousness, from ill will, from false opinions, abstain from the three things—incest, wanton greed, and perverted desires—be filial towards their mothers and fathers, be pious toward holy men, and respect heads of clans. And because of the good they do they will increase in length of life, and in comeliness, so that the sons of them who lived but forty years will come to live eighty years; their sons to 160 years; [...] Among such humans there will be only three kinds of disease: appetite, non-assimilation, and old age. Among such humans, this world will be mighty and prosperous, the villages, towns, and royal cities will be so close that a cock could fly from each one to the next. Among such humans this India—one might think it a Waveless Deep—will be pervaded by mankind even as a jungle is by reeds and rushes. Here ends the reading.

FROM THE CHRISTIAN GOSPELS:  Matthew 3:1-12
Priest:  The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ
According to Matthew.
People:  Glory to you, Lord Christ.
In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. “I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

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.]
VESTRY NOMINATIONS PROGRESS REPORT

As of December 1st, Don Wood volunteered to be nominated for the 1-year term vacated by Deb Walters and Kate May volunteered to be nominated for one of the 3-year terms. This leaves us in need to TWO more people to step up to be nominated for 3-year terms.

Here at St. Luke’s, we encourage each and every member of our congregation to take his or her turn in serving on our congregation’s “Board of Directors” or Vestry. The mission of the Vestry is to work cooperatively with the Rector and Church Staff to develop and grow our parish community. It is also to teach, practice and model the St. Luke’s Principles of Community.

What are the requirements for serving on the Vestry?
1. Be an official member of the Episcopal Church.
2. Have a history of making and fulfilling a commitment to support our parish community financially and with one’s time and abilities.
3. Attend worship regularly…well….at least as often as possible. : )
5. Attend most of the Vestry meetings throughout the year (usually about 6).
6. Be willing to be nominated and to stand for election at the next Annual Celebration (which will take place on Sunday, February 2, 2020).

Is it YOUR Time to Serve on the St. Luke’s Vestry?
To nominate yourself (i.e., volunteer to serve) or to nominate someone else, please contact either Charles+ or Beckie in the Church Office. Simple!

Annual St. Luke’s Parish Evaluation 2019

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:

1. What is the Rector doing now that you would like him to continue to do or do more of?
2. What is the Rector not doing that you would like him to begin doing?
3. What is the Rector doing that you wish he would stop doing?
4. What is the Vestry and/or Parish Staff doing that you would like them to continue doing or do more of?
5. What is the Vestry and/or Parish Staff not doing that you wish they would begin doing?
6. What is the Vestry and/or Parish Staff doing that you wish they would stop doing?
7. Our St. Luke’s Principles of Community urge is to deal with hurt and conflict in healthy ways by talking directly to rather than about those with whom there is a significant injury, resentment or disruption to others. Based upon your experiences at St. Luke’s, how are we doing as a parish community in living and practicing this principle?
8. Do you have any additional good ideas to share?

And at the very end, before you click on “Done,” you will be asked for your name and email address: “Please enter your name and email address in the box below. Thank you!! (P.S. If you are unwilling to give us your name, that probably means you are ashamed of something you have written. Would you like to go back and say it a different way? Only you can know. Only surveys with the respondent’s name and contact info will be read and included in the final report.)

To fill it out, put this web address in your browser: https://www.surveymonkey.com/PMZW7HG
It's time for us to begin collecting clothing and supplies that will help little boys and girls and adult men and women survive the elements while living on the streets. Yes, many of the homeless are the age of your kids and grandkids.

Please set aside a portion of the money you would normally spend on Christmas presents and "other stuff" in order to be able to buy clothing and supplies that may make all the difference this winter for children and adults who are without stable, reliable shelter.

Here are some suggestions:
+ Buy a good-quality child's backpack and fill it with tooth-brushes, tooth-paste, other toiletries, socks (really warm socks), long underwear, regular underwear, winter shirts and pants, winter gloves, etc.
+ Go through your closet and donate the coats and winter apparel you and your kids will no longer be using.
+ Buy and donate a couple of heavy-duty sleeping bags: child-size and/or adult.
+ Snow-boots for children and adults - new or used in good condition.

What else can you think of that would be useful to you and your children or grandchildren if you were going to be sleeping in a park in January???

Bring all of your donations to St. Luke's in Snyderville anytime. If the front doors are locked and no one is in the Church Office, just leave your donations on the porch and we will take them inside later.

THE ROAD HOME

The Candy Cane Corner, a Christmas store that provides an opportunity for Road Home clients to obtain gifts for their family, is in need of the following FOR TEENAGERS.

Every item must be new, with price tags still attached, and nothing gift wrapped.

Ideas for TEENAGE gifts:
Sweaters, sweatshirts, boots, hats, gloves, scarves, underwear, bras, socks, jackets, pajamas/sleepers, dresses, jeans, electronic devices of any kind, i.e. (cases for mobile phones, ear buds, games, clock radios) backpacks, cosmetics and personal care items of any kind, i.e. (nail polish, hair dyers, curling irons, perfumes.) Gift Certificates to department stores for teenagers.

Monetary Donations are welcomed to help operate the store: Checks can be made out to the Candy Cane Store and mailed to the following address:
C/O The Road Home
Attn.: Development
210 S. Rio Grande St.
SLC, UT 84101

Credit Card donations can be made online directly to the Candy Cane Corner at: www.candycanecornerslc.org

Between 2,500-3,500 kids and adults are served each year. The Candy Cane Corner partners with Volunteers of America and the YWCA.

There is a green trunk in the lobby to place your donations labeled Candy Cane Corner. For more information and volunteer opportunities google www.candycanecornerslc.org. The Road Home is always in need of volunteers. For information contact Alexa or Rachel at volunteer@theroadhome.org. If you have any questions, please contact me at: teresa.b.mcmillan@gmail.com, or 678-575-3781. Thanks for your generosity, Teresa McMillan
Salt Lake City’s Flourish Bakery changes lives of recovering addicts, but it needs a new home

From the Salt Lake Tribune

After 40 years of addiction — and two rounds in prison — 52-year-old Dennis Sisneros has been sober 389 days.

Sobriety, the former heroin addict explains, may have come sooner, if not for a relapse in 2018 while waiting to get an internship at Salt Lake City’s Flourish Bakery.

Sisneros was finally able to enter the 12-month training program in August and is learning the art and skills of professional baking. In the kitchen — located at Salt Lake Community College’s South City Campus — he is surrounded by teachers and mentors who encourage physical, mental and spiritual growth as much, or more, than mastering new job skills.

“If you don’t have a support system after recovery,” Sisneros explains as he mixes a batch of dough, “you’re only going to be sober for so long. If there were more of these jobs for people, recovery would be a bigger success.”

Which is why Sisneros and the rest of the interns, staff and volunteers at Flourish Bakery have put out a call for help: They need to find a new home before year’s end.

SLCC notified the bakery in late October that it would not renew the lease for the commercial kitchen. The school needs the space for its own educational and catering programs, said Clifton Sanders, SLCC provost.

“We have appreciated our affiliation with Flourish Bakery for the last two years, and we’ve been pleased to be a part of their service to the community,” he wrote in an email to The Salt Lake Tribune. “Our South City Campus has increasingly become a center for community engagement activities and college-wide events, prompting us to use the kitchen facilities to support those activities and use the space to support our academic programs.”

Aimee Altizer, Flourish Bakery’s executive director, called it “a difficult piece of news,” which arrived at a particularly busy time for the bakery, with orders for 800 dinner rolls and more than 150 pies for Thanksgiving. It is expecting a similar rush in December for Christmas parties.

The bakery sells cookies, pies, tarts and breads — as well as soups, sandwiches and other savory items — for catered events, farmers markets and to the public through its website.

Altizer said the nonprofit program needs about 2,000 square feet, and it would be “a blessing” if it could find a commercial kitchen that already has a ventilation hood, a grease trap and walk-in coolers and freezers — large pieces of kitchen equipment that would cost money the bakery doesn’t have.

Adding to the challenge is the lack of commercial kitchen space in the Salt Lake Valley and the need to be near public transportation. The interns — all recovering addicts who have been incarcerated — usually have lost their driver licenses or don’t have vehicles to get to and from work.

“We can’t just set up the kitchen anywhere,” said Altizer, a trained pastry chef who worked at several Utah restaurants and resorts before becoming an Episcopal priest. She combined her passions two years ago when she helped found Flourish Bakery.
She has faith that a space will present itself.

“Like our interns,” she said, “we are in a transitional time in life.”

Flourish Bakery started as a pilot project in January 2018 with five interns, two instructors and several volunteers.

Two of those interns successfully finished the program and have returned as employees, helping with operations and community outreach.

To be hired, interns must be in recovery and be attending therapy, addiction-recovery meetings and do the other hard work needed to remain sober.

In return, they work 32 to 40 hours a week at Flourish Bakery, earning $12 an hour. This allows them to pay rent, buy food and pay other expenses while also receiving job training.

After they complete the one-year program, interns participate in a three-month externship at a restaurant, bakery or ski resort. After the real-world experience, they are ready to get a job in the industry — which is desperate for trained employees.

Not surprisingly, there are more people in recovery applying for Flourish Bakery than revenue — from donations and sales — will allow.

Last November, when Tristan Arellano was charged with a drug possession and sent to the Utah State Prison, she lost everything, including custody of her five children — ages 18 years to 9 months. While in prison, she could have taken business courses, which she would have completed in a few months.

But she was drawn to the culinary program. “I grew up baking with my grandma,” she said, “so it’s nostalgic for me.”

After her release, she was hired as a Flourish Bakery intern.

“It’s an important steppingstone between treatment and society,” she said, “which can be scary and overwhelming.”

Earlier this week, she was navigating the transition well, making crusts and filling for pumpkin pies.

“The support here and the accountability,” she said, “make all the difference.”

Now the bakery itself needs someone to make a difference — and offer it a new home.
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 You-Tube on your phone or home computer. Go to You Tube, 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. We are reading "Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others" by Barbara Brown Taylor. Please join us for coffee, fellowship and a lively discussion! 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 web site, 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.

ECUMENICAL BIBLE STUDY:
All women are invited to join an ecumenical Bible study led by Cheryl Popple at Park City Community Church on Thursday’s at 9:30 a.m. We will be using the book, Pleading, Cursing, Praising: Conversing with God through the Psalms by Irene Nowell. The book can be purchased through Amazon in new or used condition. If you have any problems finding the book, please contact Cheryl. 435-901-3978 crpopple@comcast.net

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. Our December 10th gathering will be at the home of Ann Fiery, 515 Ibapah Peak Drive in Heber, and my phone is 304-617-5714. Bring a gift to share under $10, 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 Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:45 on December 4, 11 and 18 and January 8. We will not meet 11/27, 12/25 or 1/1 due to the holidays.

If you would like to join us please get the book so you can do the 1st week homework (through page 30). We will do the group discussion on page 42 on December 4. Hope to see you then! 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!

TAI-CHI:
Tai Chi is over for this year and will resume in the spring. Watch for the announcement.

ROAD HOME - MEN’S RESOURCE CENTER:
3380 South 1000 West, South Salt Lake, UT, 84119
No food to prepare, meals are provided. I need five volunteers to assist me in serving lunch at the Men’s Resource Center, on 12/10/19, Tuesday, 12:15-2:30. Call me with any questions.