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
February 9, 2020
Please take this home with you today.

Love God….Think for Yourself!

Icon of Evelyn Underhill  Suzanne Schleck

In one of my icons of women on the Episcopal calendar, Evelyn Underhill brings us to another aspect of prayer: self-examination and confession. Yet the love in her eyes and the blessing of her hand, as much as the words she speaks, remind us that this is one part of an on-going relationship—a relationship in which God is the one who is actually doing the work.
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 St. David’s Church in Page, Arizona And for all people within the world-wide Anglican Communion; pray for the Church of Canada.

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 & Calvin++++ (brother and grandfather of Beckie Raemer), Jane++++ (friend of Leslie Wood) Julie+++ (niece of Don Wood) Gabrielle+++ (daughter of Bernadette Rothman), Fred+++ (brother in law of Linda Sears) Derrell+++ (Reeves), Melissa & Mike+++ (daughter and son-in-law of the Jennings) Jayme+++ (sister of Felicia Lundie)

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 Assisting Priest, Mtr. Claudia and her family.

For those having Birthdays this week:
Mike Fiery tomorrow and Tricia Baily on Friday.

IF YOUR BIRTHDAY DOES NOT APPEAR ON OUR LIST, PLEASE NOTIFY BECKIE IN THE OFFICE SO THAT SHE CAN ADD IT.
The Scriptures
Epiphany 5a - February 9, 2020

COLLECT OF THE DAY: On this Fifth Sunday of the Season of Epiphany, we pray for the courage, curiosity and compassion that will motivate us to acquire the knowledge needed to engage the world in service of its healing and renewal; with Jesus our Brother, Teacher and Lord. Amen.

FROM THE HEBREW TRADITION:
Our passage from the Hebrew tradition comes from the 58th chapter of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. Please read with me by reading the parts in bold print.

Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments, they delight to draw near to God. “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day, and oppress all your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. Here ends the reading.

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

(From a commentary on Plato’s Laws)

The Athenian Stranger establishes that the purpose of the law is to do more than merely provide citizens with a certain amount of private property, such as food, drink, and land. Politics exists for the sake of public happiness, and that happiness comes about only through the cultivation of virtue in the citizenry. As the purpose of the law is virtue—not simply economic abundance—there may be need of certain restrictions on the accumulation of private property. The Athenian Stranger prohibits money-making from obscene occupations of gross vulgarity that distort the character of a free person.

Additionally, citizens cannot justify their accumulation of excessive wealth for the purpose of leaving an inheritance to their children: This is better neither for them nor for the city. Children should be left an abundance of awe rather than gold. Finally, there are caps to the amount of money that may be earned so as to prevent excessive wealth disparities in the city. None of these policies, it must be emphasized, seek arbitrary vindictiveness against the rich. These are intended to be the founding laws of a brand new city—not reforms for a setting in which wealth disparities have been well-established. The Stranger thus anticipates and accepts that the wealthy may not wish to live in this regime, and he also avers that political circumstances may demand adjusting these policies. The goal, nonetheless, remains the establishment of a harmonious political society in which people relate to and love each other, not simply their own private property. Here ends the reading.

FROM THE CHRISTIAN GOSPELS:
Priest: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ
According to Matthew. (5:13-20)

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.
Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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.]

Copies of the full text of the sermon are located on the Information Table in front of the sound booth [just in case your curiosity was piqued.] It will also be sent via the weekly St. Luke’s All Parish Email next Thursday. Please set your spam filter to allow emails from pastor@stlukespc.org Thanks! : )
Quotes from *Sand and Blood: America’s Stealth War on the Mexico Border*  
by John Carlos Frey - Chapters 3 & 4

In 1989, with the creation of the controversy Joint Task Force-6, the military acted tactically and like a police force for the first time --with deadly results.

According to the Posse, Comitatus Act that President Rutherford B. Hayes signed in 1878, the military cannot be used as a municipal police force or for civilian law enforcement unless the Constitution or an act of Congress authorizes it.

As one Defense Department spokesperson said, “We were ordered to get into the counter-drug policy, and believe me, we were dragged in kicking and screaming. There are lots of hard, complicated issues to be faced when you're talking about military personnel on US soil. But there was strong pressure for the military to be more involved in the drug fight. For a lot of lawmakers, this is their big political shtick.”

Over a decades worth of statistics up to this point had proven that more than 85% of all illegal drugs entering the United States had come through ports of entry in vehicles--not on foot. Most came concealed in legitimate cargo containers that had gone uninspected.

The terror attack on September 11, 2001, what is the single most consequential event in the history of US border policy. Not only did the country's response to 9/11 change the landscape of the US-Mexico border; it also accelerated militarization like never before.

The US-Mexico border was but one area of concern, but for the first time, economic migrants, the vast majority of undocumented immigrants, were now considered a national security threat alongside hardened criminals and terrorists.

None of the debate, pro or con, addressed the likelihood of a spike in migrant deaths. A large portion of the South Texas border wall was built, and as a result, migrant deaths in the region spiked just as predictably as in the past.
“My wife was afraid of Hell at the time of her death”

Bishop John Shelby Spong wrote the following in response to a man who wrote to him about the fear his wife, who was raised in an evangelical parish in England, experienced as she faced illness and death.

“Dear Arthur,

Thank you for your kind and sensitive letter. One does not intend to express hostility toward our brothers and sisters in Christ who have, through the literalization of religious symbols, turned Christianity away from a faith designed to expand consciousness, to increase love and to enhance life, into being the dispenser of guilt and fear. The fact remains that religion no matter how sincere can still be horribly wrong.

The religion of the Christ, which has been used over the centuries to control behavior, is responsible for great human evil. It has portrayed God as a fierce judge or as a punishing parent. It has insulted our humanity with tales of the hopelessness of our fallen state. It has lowered our sense of self-worth. It has reduced us to slaves, beggars and petitioners for mercy. It has threatened us with the devil, who is about to get us and with the fires of hell that will consume us. It has portrayed God as a bloodthirsty one whose offended righteousness will not be satisfied without a blood offering or a human sacrifice. One wonders what has happened to the Jesus who was reported to have said: “Come unto me all ye that travail and are heavy laden and I will give you rest,” Or the Jesus to whom John attributes the words: “I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

To be critical of this negative religious mentality is not to be religiously intolerant, it is to push back the religious darkness that threatens to consume our faith tradition. Through the centuries, the Bible has been used to justify anti-Semitism and the Crusades in which we Christians defined Muslims as “infidels” worthy only of being killed. It has been used to justify slavery, segregation, apartheid and racial prejudice. It has been used to diminish women and to make them feel that their presumed and male-imposed identity as second-class human beings is God-given and therefore must be not just correct, but true. It has been used to justify homophobia, to make war and suffering look like virtues and quite literally, as you suggest in your wife’s case, to fill people not with the love of God, but with the fear of God.

Your letter raises that negativity to consciousness and hopefully frees us to challenge it openly. I am pleased that your previous contacts with the Anglican Church have introduced you to clerics about whom you speak so lovingly. As you are aware, I know one of them; he is Peter Francis, the warden of St. Deiniol’s Conference Center, now known as the Gladstone Library, located in Hawarden, Wales. He is one of the finest human beings, as well as one of the finest priests, I have ever known. His grace has blessed not only your life and that of your late wife, but my wife’s life and mine as well, to say nothing of countless others.”

~John Shelby Spong
ATTENTION ALL USERS OF TITHELY

If you make your donations through titheley, and you made a change in your giving amount for 2020, please remember to log in to your account verify that the change has been made. Beckie was able to update your giving amount. However, if you cover the fees, you need to log in and check that box. Beckie is unable to do that part. If you need any help with this, please contact Beckie and she will be happy to help you with that. You can reach Beckie at beckie@stlukespc.org or 435-649-4900 ext. 12

PLAN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE RECTOR'S NEXT BOOK DISCUSSION:


When: Each Wednesday at 4:00 PM

Where: The Church Office Area

Preparation: Please purchase a copy of the book through your favorite bookstore.

The book discussion is the St. Luke's Beer & BS gathering for early 2020. Please bring your favorite beverage and snacks to share. All are welcome and all perspectives will be respected.

Questions? Contact me at pastor@stlukespc.org or 435-901-2131.

WEDNESDAY EVENING WOMENS BOOK STUDY

The women's bible study group started a new book on January 15, 2020. We are studying Richard Rohr's Falling Upward.

We meet on Wednesdays in the library from 6:30-7:45. Please let me know if you can join us this time. All are welcome. For more information, please contact Mary Parsons at Mary.Parsons@hsc.utah.edu.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OR RECEIVING THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION?

Bishop Hayashi will make his annual visitation to St. Luke’s on Sunday, March 1st. If you would like to officially join the Episcopal Church or receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, March 1st is the day as both require the Bishop’s participation. For details and more info, contact Charles+.
DATE CHANGE - ART AND SOUL SATURDAYS - DATE CHANGE

It will be necessary for me to reschedule Saturdays’ art making workshop from the first Saturday of each month to the second Saturday of each month. In addition, I would like to plan more time for dialogue about processes and the art making experiences. I propose a starting a half hour earlier, and ending a half hour later, 9:30 until 12:30. The next scheduled date will be Saturday, March 14! Thanks!!!!

A RED-BLUE BETTER ANGELS WORKSHOP - SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29TH @ ST. LUKE'S:

Red-Blue Better Angels Workshops enable Republicans and Democrats to listen to and learn from one another in a safe and respectful environment. They are a tool in our battle against enmity and tribal divisiveness in our families and community.

If you have not yet participated in a Red-Blue Workshop, please sign up for the one taking place at St.Luke's on Saturday, February 29th 8:30 AM to Noon.

Register by emailing Charles+ at pastor@stlukespc.org

If you have already participated in a Workshop, please help recruit the 7 Reds and 7 Blues needed on the 29th. A "Red" is someone who tends to vote Republican most of the time while a "Blue" is someone who votes Democrat more often than not.

So far, we have 2 Blues and no Reds registered. So please mention the workshop to family and friends. Encourage them to register by emailing Charles+

Thanks for your help with and interest in the Better Angels Project!
**Info You Can Use**

**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.

**DONATIONS WELCOME**
No energy to climb up to the attic to put away all your Christmas decorations? Or cleaning out closets to make room for all your Christmas gifts? Please consider donating your extra Christmas decorations or unwanted items to our Missions Table. All proceeds go to support local non-profits or St Luke's ministries. Just leave your items under the table (or on the table, if there is room) and we will make them available to support our mission fund. Thank you!

**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.

**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. On February 11th we will meet at the big church. Bring something that you didn't like for a Christmas present or a white elephant gift to swap, or give to the missions table.

**WEDNESDAY EVENING WOMEN’S BOOK STUDY:**
We are studying Richard Rohr “Falling Upward”. We meet on Wednesdays in the library from 6:30-7:45. Please let me know if you can join us this time. All are welcome. For more information, please contact Mary Parsons at Mary.Parsons@hsc.utah.edu.

**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**
The Road Home is in need of volunteers, January and February, to serve the men lunch and dinners at the MRC, located in South Salt Lake. You can sign up individually, with friends or as a group. The time goes quickly and the men are so appreciative. Below is the link for the signup! https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e084daceaf2aa2f94-mens1 Thanks so much.

**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!

Please make a donation today!
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.