St. Luke's Weekly Magazine
January 22, 2017
Please take this home with you today.

Love God….Think for Yourself!

TO OUR GUESTS - WELCOME - THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE TODAY!

St. Luke's Episcopal Church is a Christian community composed of free thinkers who include: conservatives, moderates, & liberals; agnostics, skeptics & atheists. All spiritual seekers who are searching for an approach to faith that makes the most sense to them personally are welcome here!

PLEASE NOTE: During the 10:30 worship service, we normally video-record the sermon for posting on You-Tube. Your image may be captured during recording.

To view sermons, go to You-Tube and then search for “St. Luke’s Episcopal Church Park City.”

Jesus told his disciples, “Follow me!”

Those who answered Jesus’ call to discipleship committed themselves to a change in vocation. They committed to focusing on offering the spiritual nourishment of God’s love to hungry people—the same nourishment they themselves found in following Jesus. It was not easy for them. And it is not easy for us. In making a conscious commitment to follow Jesus, we cannot know where it will lead us. We can only trust God and trust God’s deep love for us.

Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end.

Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am following Your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please You does in fact please you. And I hope that I have that desire in all that I am doing.

I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.

And I know that if I do this, You will lead me by the right road although I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust You always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death, I will not fear, for You are ever with me and You will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Thomas Merton

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In Need of Prayer of 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, contact Tami Wrice with your request at 435-901-1128 or t-wrice@hotmail.com. If you know of someone who needs Home Communion, contact our Lay Eucharistic Visitor Team by calling or emailing the Church Office. Blessings!

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

**THE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY:**
✓ Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Scott, our Diocesan Bishop and for ALL the people and parishes in our diocese. Pray especially for St. Michael’s Church in Brigham City.
✓ All people within the world-wide Anglican Communion; pray for the people & leaders of The Church of Southern Africa.

**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:**

**THE HUMAN COMMUNITY AROUND THE WORLD:**
✓ Safety and Comfort for the people and rescue workers trapped from the avalanche in Italy.
✓ Comfort for the many people that lost loved ones in the high-rise fire and collapse in Tehran.
✓ An end to terrorism and the wisdom to find a way to live together in peace.
✓ An end to the conflicts in Yemen, Ukraine, Syria, Iraq & Afghanistan and healing for all victims.
✓ A lasting, permanent peace between Israel & her neighbors.

**THOSE WHO HAVE DIED……...**
Pray for the Repose of the Soul of Jan Hafner

**PLEASE GIVE THANKS FOR......**
✓ For all of our Volunteers and their families.
The Scripture Passages
3rd Sunday after the Epiphany A - January 22, 2016

Collect of the Day: Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of love, compassion and the struggle for social and economic justice, that we and the whole world may experience healing, wholeness and abundance of life; with Jesus, our Brother, Teacher and Lord. Amen

The Hebrew Scriptures:
Reader: Today's reading from the Hebrew scriptures comes from the 9th chapter of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. The background to this text is found in Isaiah 7. In 734 BCE, facing attack from Israel and Syria, Ahaz, the king of Judah, considered enlisting the aid of Assyria. While this would neutralize the threats of his northern neighbors, it would also require entering into alliance with the "Evil Empire" of the day. What should Ahaz do? Isaiah urged Ahaz to stand firm in faith, trust in God, and refuse coalitions with other countries whether it be Syria, Israel or Assyria. Please read the passage with me by reading the parts in bold print….There will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali,

but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea,
the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. Here ends the reading.

The Sikh Scriptures:
A person who has faith and confidence in God’s provision need not worry about worldly cares. For one who has deep insight into Reality, concerns about possessions and acquisitions seem meaningless. Hence the scriptures counsel the traveller in the spirit to avoid meaningless attachments to possessions, position, or fame. The faithless person, being attached to these things, becomes anxious when they are lacking, and he is constantly driven to grasp after them. But in the life of faith there is a simplicity and detachment that produces neither anxiety nor care. Please read with me from the Adi Granth by reading the parts in bold print……The restless mind is not fixed at one spot;

Like a deer it nibbles at tender shoots.

Should man lodge in mind the divine lotus feet, his life span is lengthened, his mind awakened, immortal he becomes.

All beings are in the grip of anxiety; But by contemplation of God comes joy. Here ends the reading.

The Christian Gospels:  John 1:29-42
Priest:  The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People:  Glory to you, Lord Christ.
When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him. Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

People:  Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Offertory Sentence:
Priest:  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 your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. And you shall love your neighbor as yourself.

[Hebrew & Christian scripture passages are reprinted with permission from the World Council of Churches. Passages from extra-biblical sources are reprinted with permission from World Scriptures.]
The Third Agreement: Don’t Make Assumptions

On the first day of school, the children brought gifts for their teacher. The supermarket manager’s daughter brought the teacher a basket of assorted fruit. The florist’s son brought the teacher a bouquet of flowers. The candy-store owner’s daughter gave the teacher a pretty box of candy. Then the liquor-store owner’s son brought up a big, heavy box. The teacher lifted it up and noticed that it was leaking a little bit... She touched a drop of the liquid with her finger and tasted it. "Is it wine?" she guessed. "No," the boy replied. She tasted another drop and asked, "Champagne?" "No," said the little boy. "It's a puppy!"

Scientist and writer David Brin once noted, “The worst mistake of first contact, made throughout history by individuals on both sides of every new encounter, has been the unfortunate habit of making assumptions. It often proved fatal.” Today, we are going to examine the third of the four agreements discussed in Don Miguel Ruiz’s text, The Four Agreements. Recall that the first agreement is “be impeccable in your word,” that is, words are powerful so be careful to never use the power of words to tear down yourself or others. The second agreement is “don’t take anything personal;” always try to recognize that the things people say to you about you are more the result of the speaker’s own personality, experiences in life and mental habits than the result of anything you have done. The third agreement is “don’t make assumptions.”

While “don’t take anything personally” can be understood to be largely directed at how we react to the things, especially the negative things, other people say to us about us, “don’t make assumptions” is about how we think about others. An assumption is an untested belief; it’s something we think is true without ever having taken the necessary steps to know it’s true.

Our minds are assumption-making machines. It is normal and natural for us to continually crank out one assumption after another about one another and about most of the other aspects of life and the world. There is nothing wrong with this. Even philosophers, who are real sticklers about the need to reduce the number of untested assumptions we use in making truth and knowledge claims, have to admit that every philosophy and every philosophical system requires one or more starting assumptions. For example, Rene Descartes, the famous 17th century mathematician and one of the founders of the Enlightenment, is best known for his attempt to isolate a single assumption that is so certain and indisputable that everyone in the world could agree to make it the starting point for any search for truth and knowledge. The assumption he focused upon: “I think therefore I am.” But even that proposition (assumption), as simple and clear as it seems, was found to have problems as an unquestionable foundation for a theory of knowledge.

Assumptions are, however, necessary. We would not be able to live and function without them. We have the courage to get out of bed in the morning and go out into the world because we assume that we will be safe in doing so and that we will be rewarded for showing up at work. I have to assume that all of you can hear in order to preach this homily. If the assumption is that everyone is deaf, what would be the point of a verbal presentation? So, hundreds of times each day, we make assumptions to live and function in the world.

Specifically in the context of human relationships, problems usually arise when three conditions meet: 1. our assumptions reside outside of our line of sight, that is, we assume certain things about one another without any awareness of them; 2. our assumptions become problematic when they are negative, accusatory and critical about the other person. For example, “I assume she cannot be trusted; I assume he was trying to hurt me; I assume they do not respect or like me very much.” And 3. these kinds of thoughts, judgments, assumptions become destructive when we believe them (and we almost always, by definition, believe the assumptions we make about other people and the world.)

One of the insights Ruiz shares in this chapter is that the human mind has a compulsive need to know and understand things. “We have the need to justify everything, to explain and understand everything in order to feel safe...It’s not important if the answers [to our questions] are correct; just that the answers make us feel safe. This is why we make assumptions.” Of course, anytime we are willing to believe negative and hurtful judgments about one another or other human beings without evidence or without asking whether or not our assumptions are indeed true and accurate, we become a channel for relational poison and emotional injury for ourselves and others. How many relationships have been damaged or totally destroyed because one person made negative, critical assumptions about another person, never acted to take steps to make sure those accusatory assumptions were based in evidence and accuracy and then related to that person as if the assumptions were true?

Continued on next page
I hope you have noticed by now that the agreements described by Ruiz all fit very nicely with the St. Luke’s Principles of Community. These Principles, constructed to protect the emotional and spiritual well-being of our parish community from the destructive force of accusatory words, malicious gossip and the hurt and division that often arises from interpersonal misunderstanding, encourage us to practice direct, honest and respectful communication in all of our relationships inside and outside the church.

But the “Four Agreements” of Ruiz and the St. Luke’s Principles of Community Life can be only effective when they are fed and supported by courage. It takes courage to ask questions, to seek out the truth, to risk being open and honest. It is only through the exercise of courage that we can risk finding out if our assumptions about what someone really meant by their statement or action are true and accurate. When we assume that the person sitting next to us in church does not like us or think well of us, it takes real courage to ask that person if our assumption is accurate. When we assume that our co-worker has been gossiping about us with other officemates, it takes real courage to ask if such gossip has been taking place. But it is only when we find the courage to seek out the truth that we can move forward in health, healing and happiness. If we can find the courage to ask the questions needed to get to the truth, we can live in peace with ourselves and others.

Blessings,
Charles+

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Dear Members of the Diocese of Utah,

Diocesan Convention 2017 will be held March 31st-April 1st at the Hotel RL (formerly the Red Lion) at 161 W 600 S in Salt Lake City. The Most Reverend Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate, will be the guest of honor during convention, at which we will observe the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Missionary District of Utah that became the Diocese of Utah. The Presiding Bishop will be the keynote speaker and will preside and preach at the convention eucharist.

The two days of convention will be held at the Hotel RL instead of at the Episcopal Commons in order to accommodate the greater number of Utah Episcopalians and friends likely to attend.

This email is to notify you of a special pricing structure that will allow persons not attending all of convention to join with the diocese for workshops, late afternoon reception, and dinner banquet on Friday only. Delegates and others who wish to attend both Friday and Saturday will have a different registration price.

So that your congregations may budget for the modest cost increases, the following is provided to you at this time.

Registration for Friday, March 31st, only, including workshops, reception, banquet, and keynote speech by the Presiding Bishop: $50 per person

Registration for both Friday and Saturday, including Friday events listed above and Saturday meals of breakfast and lunch, workshops, business sessions, and all registration materials: $75.00 per person

A block of rooms has already been reserved at the Hotel RL for members and friends of the Diocese at $89 plus tax per room per night. Reservations may be made for rooms now by the person who will be resident in the room or by a church office who will register that church’s attendees individually (The Diocese will not be handling any room reservations). Simply tell the reservationist that you will be attending the "Episcopal Church in Utah 2017 Convention" to get the special rate before February 17th. The hotel’s phone number is 801/521-7373. This need not be done this early, but it may.

The Holy Eucharist will be held on Saturday morning at the hotel; all persons are welcome to attend, whether registered or not for Saturday. Attendance at remaining events on Saturday require registration.

In addition to the Presiding Bishop’s presence with us at convention, he will be the preacher at the Holy Eucharist at the Cathedral Church of St. Mark on Sunday, April 2nd. It was in our cathedral that he was elected Presiding Bishop during the General Convention in 2015. All are most welcome to worship at the cathedral at 10:30 a.m. on that day.

Of course, much more information and official notifications will be forthcoming as we approach next March.
The Jesus Seminar is Coming to Salt Lake City!!

Utahns for Religious Scholarship

presents

A “Jesus Seminar on the Road” Event
5 Lectures Each followed by Audience Q & A

on

The Historical Jesus and Early Christianity

Arthur J. Dewey (Th.D., Harvard University) is Professor of Theology at Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. A regular on PBS’s Saturday Morning Edition (WVXU, 91.7 in Cincinnati), he is the author or editor of many works including Wisdom Notes (2016), The Gospel of Jesus (2d ed., 2014) and The Complete Gospel Parallels (2012).

Nina E. Livesey (Ph.D., Southern Methodist University) is Associate Professor of Religious Studies and Interdisciplinary Studies in the College of Liberal Studies at the University of Oklahoma in Norman. She is the author of Galatians and the Rhetoric of Crisis (2016) and Circumcision as a Malleable Symbol (2010).

Friday Evening and All Day Saturday - February 24 & 25, 2017

Location: Westminster College - Gore Auditorium - 1840 South 1300 East - SLC
Tuition: All Sessions - Pre-registration Rate (by Feb 10th) $60 - Individual Rate $75 at the Door
See Registration Website at Link Below for Pricing on Single Lectures
Refunds are available until two weeks before the event if requested in writing, minus a $10 administrative fee. No refunds will be given after that date.

TO REGISTER ONLINE:
https://www.westararinstitute.org/regional-programs/jsor-registration/
Have You Taken Your Turn to Serve on the St. Luke’s Vestry???

One of the goals that sets St. Luke’s apart from other churches is our goal to have every active & involved member of our parish community take their turn to serve a 3-year term on the church’s board of directors, i.e., Vestry. Elections will take place at our Annual Celebration on February 5th and at least 3 nominees are needed. Is it your turn?

Members of the St. Luke’s Vestry can expect about 6 meetings per year with each meeting lasting 2 hours or less. In addition, members are asked to read documents in preparation for upcoming meetings. This requires, on average, about 15 minutes per month.

Thank you to our two nominees: Linda Dugins and Rusty Martz

We still need one more. To volunteer to serve, to nominate someone else or to obtain more info, please contact Charles+ or a member of the Vestry. Thanks!!

Annual Celebration on Sunday, February 5th

Please join us on Sunday, February 5th at 11:30 following the 10:30 morning prayer service. During the Celebration, we will give thanks for all of our successes, elect 3 new vestry members, elect 3 delegates and 2 alternates for the Diocesan Convention next March 31st - April 1st, and share in a wonderful potluck lunch. Please plan to bring either an entree, side dish, salad or dessert to share. If you would like to look at the 2017 Operating Budget approved by the Vestry on Jan. 17th, just go to our parish website and download a copy or look on the Information Table in the Coffee Hour Area of the church.

We are going to have a great time together so please plan to come!!!
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.

AUTUMN GOSPEL GROUP FOR WOMEN 50ish & UP: FOURTH SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10:00 AM Meets on the fourth Saturday of each month, 10:00 - NOON. We are beginning a new book, "Autumn Gospel" by Kathleen Fischer. Please join us for coffee, fellowship and a lively discussion! For more info, please call Dyan Pignatelli,435-782-3330 or Joyce Pearson, 435-659-0724.

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE: WWW.STLUKESPARKCITY.ORG On the website newcomers will find info about our church and what to expect when they visit. In addition, there is information about all of 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, then St Luke’s Episcopal Church Park City, UT. Happy exploring!!!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY We will be starting our new study "Divine Dance-The Trinity and Your Transformation" by Richard Rohr. It is available on Amazon and on kindle. Beginning January 11th, Wednesday nights 6:30-8:00 PM.

WOMEN'S GET TOGETHER We meet the second Tuesday of every month at 6:30 PM. Please bring a dish or drink to share.

CENTERING PRAYER Meets Monday mornings at 9:30 AM & Friday mornings at 10:00 AM in the Jerusalem room. Please join us in this contemplative practice of Holy Silence.

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.

ART & SOUL SATURDAYS Monks and Mystics. Join us Saturday morning, February 4 at the church, 10:00 am - 12:30. St. Francis of Assisi is one of the most well-known and beloved saints of our Christian Tradition. He truly epitomizes the concept of the “dancing monk”. You are invited to discover how St. Francis’s experiences may offer guidance to deepen your own experiences of the Holy.

We use paint and paper and found images from magazines, etc., to visualize and thus better appreciate our inner responses to what we discover. No previous art making experience is needed! The focus is on processes, not creating a finished product! Call or email Claudia+ for more information: giacomaclaudia@gmail.com or 435-513-0441. A SPECIAL TREAT All Saints Deacon, Anita Miner, a Third Order Franciscan, will be present to speak about the Order and how her Franciscan Rule of Life supports her in her spiritual journey.