“Three wise women set out to follow the star. Each ended the journey and gave away her treasure along the way. One dropped out when she was needed to heal the sick during a plague. The second stayed behind to help prevent a war with her leadership. The last remained in a great city to provide for the poor. When the star left the heavens each awoke the next day to discover a gift placed beside her while she slept. They never solved this mystery, but the meaning is clear: they had arrived at their destination even though they had not completed their journey.”

Imagine: With great intention you have begun your 2018 spiritual journey. What is your soul’s deepest desire? Is there a perceived destination? What companions go with you? What gifts do you carry? To whom will you offer them? In what way?
If you need pastoral support or know someone that does, please call Fr. Charles+, at 435-901-2131. Remember, Charles+ still can’t read minds so he will not know unless you tell him. Calls will be kept confidential.

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 Church of the Resurrection in Centerville. And for all people within the world-wide Anglican Communion; pray for the people & leaders of 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:

THE HUMAN COMMUNITY AROUND THE WORLD:
Pray that the human community may find the wisdom to live in greater respect and harmony with our planet home.
Safety and recovery for all people effected by natural disasters throughout the world.
Healing for every soul captured by fear, bigotry and resentment. May we all develop to ability to see the Sacred in those most different from ourselves.
A lasting and permanent peace between Israel and all of her neighbors.

THOSE WHO HAVE DIED…….

PLEASE GIVE THANKS FOR.....
And for our. Sr. Warden, Karl Sears and his family.

For those having Birthdays this week: Emily Fiscus, Charlie Martz on Monday; Charles Robinson on Wednesday and Mark van Hartesvelt on Friday.

If your birthday does not appear on our list our list, please notify Beckie in the office so that she can add it.

Our Parish Community Prayer list: ++ Please note that we will place a + after each name for each week the name is on our prayer list. After four weeks (+++) the name will be removed unless otherwise requested.
The Scripture Passages
First Sunday After Epiphany B - January 7, 2018

The Collect of the Day: This is a season of hope. We pray for the kind of faith and courage that will move us to act with hope and determination to bring mercy and compassion to every place, both within and without, where cruelty and apathy have taken up residence; with Jesus our Brother, Teacher and Lord. Amen.

From the Hebrew Tradition:
Our first passage is found in the 29th Psalm. The Rev. Matthew Stith notes that it is generally a matter of consensus among scholars that this Psalm was originally a Canaanite text celebrating Ba'al or a similar storm god. At one point, it was then brought into Israel’s use by replacing Ba'al's name with Yahweh’s. The Psalmist, however, focuses the attention of the reader squarely on what matters most here: the voice of the Lord. Six times in the eleven verses of the Psalm, the divine voice and its effects are the center of attention. The voice that strips the cedars and the forests also strips away all human pretensions of power, control, and agency. The voice that flashes fire and lightning erases any notion of our own insight and understanding. The voice that shakes Lebanon, Sirion, and Kadesh shakes all human sureties, assumptions, and plans. Before this revelation of even a tiny fraction of the full reality of the Lord, we are undone. It is not the strong, the confident, or the self-assured who can, with hope and propriety, ask the Lord for strength and peace. It is, rather, the weak, the helpless, and the chastened, those who have truly heard the voice, and have been brought to realize their utter dependence on the one who utters it. Please read with me from the Hebrew tradition by reading the parts in bold print……Ascribe to the Lord, you gods, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his Name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon the mighty waters.
The voice of the Lord is a powerful voice; the voice of the Lord is a voice of splendor. The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees; the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon; He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.

The voice of the Lord the flames of fire; the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness; the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe and strips the forests bare. And in the temple of the Lord all are crying, "Glory!" The Lord sits enthroned above the flood; the Lord sits enthroned as King for evermore. The Lord shall give strength to his people; the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace. Here ends the reading.

From the Buddhist Tradition:
Barbara O’Brien notes that the spiritual path can seem a frustrating slog much of the time. The Buddha knew this, and he taught that there are five spiritual qualities that, when developed together, become the “five powers” that overcome hindrances. The five are faith, effort, mindfulness, concentration and wisdom. Let’s look briefly at the first of these: faith. Please read with me from the Buddhist tradition by reading the parts in bold print……"Faith" in other religions often means the blind acceptance of doctrines without evidence. The Buddha clearly taught us to not accept any doctrine or teaching blindly.

In Buddhism, "faith" means "trust" or "confidence."
This includes trust and confidence in yourself, knowing that you can overcome obstacles through the power of practice.

Faith, therefore, does not mean accepting Buddhist doctrines as true. Rather, it means that you trust your spiritual and mental practices to develop your own insight into what the doctrines teach. The Buddha compared trust in the “dharma”(teachings) to the way birds "trust" a tree in which they build their nests.

Often we experience our spiritual practice as a balancing act between faith and bewilderment.

This is good; being willing to look deeply at what bewilders you.
"Looking deeply" does not mean concocting an intellectual explanation to cover your ignorance. It means practicing wholeheartedly with your uncertainties and being open to insight when it comes. Here ends the reading.

From the Christian Gospels: Mark 1:4-11
Priest: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ
People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.
John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”
Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The 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.]
**Exciting Happenings**

**IF YOU TOOK TIME TO COMPLETE THE ST. LUKE’S ANNUAL PARISH SURVEY.....THANK YOU!** Your feedback and ideas help our parish community to remain healthy and strong. Our Senior Warden, Karl Sears, will review the surveys with Beckie, our Parish Administrator, and will offer a summary for the Vestry and the parish community at our Annual Celebration on Sunday, Feb. 4th.

**WOMEN’S GATHERING:** We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. The next meeting will take place at the church on January 9th at 6:30 PM. Please bring a drink or a dish to share. These have been a lot of fun in the past, so we’re hoping to have a large attendance. Please join us!

**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 starting to read "The Book of Joy" by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Please join us for coffee, fellowship and a lively discussion! For more info please call Ann Deyo, 435-615-7478 or Judy Hanley, 435-649-7607.

**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:** Newcomers will find info about our church and what to expect when they visit. [www.stlukesparkcity.org](http://www.stlukesparkcity.org) In addition, 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.

**WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY:** We will be starting our next women's bible study on Wednesday January 10th reading Anne Lamott's new book "Hallelujah Anyway". We will also be going as a group to see Anne Lamott at the Eccles center on Feb 3. We meet Wednesday's in the library 6:30-8 pm. Please feel free to get a book and join us! Please contact Mary Parsons at Mary.Parsons@hsc.utah.edu if you have questions.

**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, harrietstephens@gmail.com, (435)655-1888.

**NEW WAY TO MAKE A DONATION:** You can now do it directly from your mobile phone, computer or a tablet. Go to our new website: [www.stlukesparkcity.org](http://www.stlukesparkcity.org) to make a one time donation or set up a recurring donation from a credit card or checking account.

**THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR HELP DURING THE HOLIDAYS:** Our beautiful decorating was done by a fabulous team including Nancy Conrow, Rita Baden, Ann Deyo, Anne Bransford and Erik Clayton for stringing lights. Thank you to Manuel Clayton, Keith Trickett, Shelle Jennings and all the members of the choir for beautiful performances at all three services. Thank you for the Ministry Leaders for organizing and leading team members for all three services. Iris Thompson, Barbara Wine, Mary Parsons, Lee Osborne and Marilyn Heinrich. Thank you to Ann Deyo for laminating all of our new "Electronic Giving Cards" and to Pamela Davey for creating the new cards. And to the many men and women for setting up and putting away all of the extra chairs for Christmas Eve. Thanks to Jon Weinberg for finding Nursery coverage on Christmas Eve. Thanks also goes to Jim Jennings and RustyMartz for making sure all of our lights were working and helping with our water softener leaks. I have no doubt that there were many others behind the scenes. Thank you everyone for everything you do to keep things going on around here. Thank you also to John Hoener, Ann Deyo and Jane Hamilton for leading Morning Prayer on the 31st.

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

**PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING THE CHALICE BEARER MINISTRY:** We need additional help with the chalice bearer ministry at the church. We schedule 5 chalice bearers each Sunday to help with the wine, grape juice, and gluten free wafers. Brief training is done before your first Sunday. Please contact Mary Parsons to join our team!

**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@stlukesp.org or 435-901-2131.