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.”

FROM OUR JOURNAL PAGES; Chuck + Peg:

Dabar, the Hebrew word for “word.” The Hebrew concept of ‘word’ is far more dynamic than the English conception. Dabar is the word that is the divine creative energy. All of creation contains the living wisdom of Dabar with the creative energy flowing through all things, all time and all space. In Genesis, the story tells us, that God spoke and then the powerful beings of creation—light and darkness, sun and moon—into existence. Dabar, which is translated as ‘word,’ implies deeds and actions, not just words. This creative energy or word of God we believe is still active today—it is constantly creating and inviting us (all beings) to participate in this continuous process.

Invitation to Reflection

Sit in silence and solitude for a few minutes, inviting awareness of a particular hope and/or dream you have for your personal spiritual life in the year ahead. What a longing for your St. Luke’s community?

What single word pops into your mind that carries a good deal of energy?

To what action or commitment does that word call you?
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 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 the Ministry of the Laity in Utah.
✓ All people within the world-wide Anglican Communion; pray for the people & leaders of The Church of Central 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:
✓ Robert++++ (husband of Iris Thompson), Pat++++ (Sanger), Rita++++ (wife of Kevin Tischner), Alexa++++ (granddaughter of Deedee Sihvonen), Gerry++++ (wife of Jim Brooks) Mildred & Tom++++ (mother and brother of Cheryl Popple) Gabrielle++++ (daughter of Richard & Bernadette Rothman) Tom+++ (brother of Joe Cordery) Arlan & Kelle++++ (step dad and mother of Aimee Altizer), Holly++++ (friend of Abbey Cordery) Joanne++++ (friend of Leslie Wood) Mary Gene++++ (mother of Sharon Christiansen) Marilyn+++ (friend of Jane Hamilton) Laurie+++ (friend of Barbara Wine) Liza Jane++, Rachel++ (great granddaughter & grand daughter of Barbara Wine)

THE HUMAN COMMUNITY AROUND THE WORLD:
✓ 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……

PLEASE GIVE THANKS FOR........

For Ann Fiery, our A Course In Miracles Leader and her family.

And for those having birthdays this week: Emily Fiscus and Charlie Martz today; Charles Robinson on Tuesday; Joyce Pearson and Mark van Hartesveldt on Wednesday.

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 the Epiphany A - January 8, 2016

Collect of the Day: Each of us is called to bring hope, peace and compassion into the world, but such work requires courage, determination and clarity of purpose. May we all seek and discover the spiritual hero who lives within us; that part of us with the courage and love to bring light into darkness and hope into places of despair; with Jesus, our Brother, Teacher and Lord. Amen

The Hebrew Scriptures:
Reader: Today’s reading from the Hebrew scriptures comes from the 42nd chapter of the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. This passage shows God speaking into the pain of exile to send a servant who will bring justice, and not to Israel only but to all nations. For Americans who have not experienced combat and defeat on our own soil, it may be difficult to imagine just how devastating it was for God’s chosen people to be handed over to enemies, humiliated and destroyed, taken into bondage, all while God did not intervene to stay the terrible defeat. In spite of this, the people are encouraged to maintain an attitude of hopeful expectation. Please read the passage with me by reading the parts in bold print…..Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights;

He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Here ends the reading.

The Buddhist Scriptures:
The hero in wisdom literature is usually steadfast through his trials, and finally emerges the victor. In the case of Buddha and Mahavira, these trials were largely internal struggles to realize the truth through sustained meditation and austerities. Upon the conquest of his passions and attaining the highest liberation, Gotama became the Buddha, the Wayfarer who had reached the Goal, the "trackless one" who had transcended the cycle of birth and death. Jain sutras describe Mahavira's victory, by which he becomes a Tirthankara, in similar terms. Please read with me from the Dhammapada 353 by reading the parts in bold print…..All have I overcome. All do I know.

Having comprehended all by myself, whom shall I call my teacher?

Here ends the reading.

The Christian Gospels:
Matthew 3:13-17

Priest: The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.
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 reprint-ed with permission from the World Council of Churches. Passages from extra-biblical sources are reprinted with permission from World Scriptures.]
Please Be Aware of The Power of Your Words
1st Sunday after Epiphany A - January 8, 2017

Rumi, the 13th century Muslim poet and scholar, once advised, "Raise your words, not your voice. It is rain that grows flowers, not thunder." Recall that, on the Second Sunday of Advent, we initiated a series of homilies on The Four Agreements by Don Miguel Ruiz. In that first homily, we talked a good bit about the power of the beliefs and judgments handed down to us by our parents and the other significant adults of our childhood. Much of who we have been and are today was born of the influence of these early childhood mentors. And yet, the spiritual path seems to rest in our willingness to transcend their influence and learn to think for ourselves.

Today, let’s look at the first of the four agreements according to Toltec tradition and spirituality: “Be impeccable with your word.” Similar to the way fish live in water and, for that reason, probably never notice the clear liquid in which they live and move and have their being, so humans live in an ever-expanding ocean of language. We use language all day, every day to communicate, to express ideas, to bless and to curse, to discover and explore not only the world around us, but also our own mind and being. Because we swim in this ocean of words and language all the time, we may never stop to reflect on their power and significance.

But that would be a mistake because our words are powerful and deserving of careful attention. They make knowledge and understanding possible. Words make the expression of beauty and wisdom possible. Words make relationships possible. Ruiz notes that words have the power to create. “The word is not just a sound or written symbol. The word is a force; it is the power you have to express and communicate…The word is the most powerful tool you have as a human; it is the tool of magic. But like a sword with two edges, your word can create the most beautiful dream, or your word can destroy everything around you.”

The Hebrew tradition possesses the same insight. In the first chapter of the Book of Genesis, we find the following, “In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness.” In the remainder of the Creation Story, we read these words again and again: “And God said, ‘Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters…”’ “And God said, ‘Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.’” “And God said” appears eight more times as step by step the creation is completed. Clearly, the idea is that language has been used from the beginning in the act of creation. Our words, your words make things come into being.

And in the Christian tradition, the writer of the Gospel of John elevates Jesus to the status of the mind or essence of the Sacred: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” Again, our words possess the power to create, to bring new life, to bring light into darkness.

Just as our words have the power to create and to bless; however, they also possess the power to destroy and to curse. Ruiz tells the following story. There was a woman who was intelligent and had a very good heart. She had a daughter whom she adored and loved very much. One night she came home from a very bad day at work, tired, full of emotional tension, and with a terrible headache. All she wanted was peace and quiet, but her daughter was singing and jumping happily. The daughter was unaware of how our mother was feeling; she was in her own world, in her own dream. She felt so wonderful, but she was singing so loud that it made her mother’s headache even worse, and at a certain moment, the mother lost control. Angrily, she looked at her beautiful girl and said, “Shut up! You have an ugly voice. Can you just shut up!” The truth is that the mother’s tolerance for any noise was nonexistent; it was not that the little girl’s voice was ugly. But the daughter believed what her mother said, and in that moment she made an agreement with herself. After that she no longer sang, because she believed her voice was ugly and would bother anyone who heard it. She became shy at school, and if she was asked to sing, she refused. Even speaking to others became difficult for her. Everything changed in the little girl because of this new agreement: She believed she must repress her emotions in order to be accepted and loved.

“The power of the word is completely misused in hell,” Ruiz writes. This is the reason we should always think before we speak. The person you compliment or the person you attack or degrade may believe your words. The first agreement is this: “Be impeccable with your word.” Ruiz notes that impecability means “without sin.” Impeccable comes from the Latin pecatus, which means “sin.” The im in impeccable means “without,” so impeccable means “without sin.” A sin is anything you do which goes against yourself. Everything you feel or believe or say that goes against yourself is a sin. You go against yourself when you judge or condemn yourself for anything. Being without sin is exactly the opposite. Being impeccable is not going against yourself. When you are impeccable, you take responsibility for your actions, but you do not judge yourself without compassion and tenderness. Self-rejection is the biggest sin that you commit. In religious terms self-rejection is a “mortal sin,” which leads to death. Impecability, on the other hand, leads to life.

It leads to a life of happiness and abundance because, in the absence of self-negation, self-rejection and self-degradation, we are liberated to not only love and care for ourselves, but also to love and care for all others in our lives. The choice is always our own. Will I hold tight to beliefs and judgments about myself that are painful and cruel or will I let them go and replace them with messages of self-goodness, self-compassion and self-affirmation? Will I cultivate the mental habits that empower me to speak words of blessing and creation or will I remain in hell, the place of the language of cursing and destruction? The first agreement is this: “Be impeccable with your word.” Which path will you choose?

Blessings,
Charles+
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.

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

P.S. The Vestry will meet on Tuesday, January 17th to finalize the 2017 Operating Budget. If your ministry will need funding from the budget during 2017, please contact Beckie (beckie@stlukespc.org) and let her know what will be needed. Thanks!!

St. Luke’s Church produced 8.1 kilowatts of energy during the month of December.

This offset is the equivalent of 6 Trees
Please Take 2 Minutes to Complete Our Annual Self-Evaluation: So How are We Doing?

It is important for us......all of us.....to reflect on how we are doing as a congregation; to reflect on our spiritual, political and organizational health and well-being. Sometime before Sunday, January 15th, at your convenience, please click on this web link:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CMLCPJR

and complete the 4 question survey. Please provide as much information as you can. You can probably complete this in 10 minutes or less. This feedback will help us all work together to keep our parish community healthy and vibrant.

This is what you will see when you click on the web link above……

Dear Members and Friends of St. Luke's,

Please take a few minutes to answer any or all of the following questions. Your feedback and insights are important in helping us keep our parish community healthy and effective. Thanks for your help!!!

1. With respect to the rector, parish staff, and/or vestry.....what is he or they doing that you would like to see them continue doing?

2. With respect to the rector, parish staff, and/or vestry.....what is he or they not doing that you would like to see them start doing?

3. With respect to the rector, parish staff, and/or vestry.....what is he or they doing that you would like them to stop doing?

4. How do you rate our community's willingness to practice the St. Luke's Principles of Community?

   5 - Very High....I know of no instances in which members of St. Luke's have gossiped about other members of our community or have been unwilling to engage in positive problem-solving.

   4 - High - I know of only one or two instances in which members of St. Luke's have gossiped about other members of our community or have been unwilling to engage in positive problem-solving.

   3 - I have no opinion.

   2 - Low - I know of several instances in which members of St. Luke's have gossiped about other members of our community or have been unwilling to engage in positive problem-solving.

   1 - Very Low - It is my experience that members of St. Luke's frequently gossip about one another and/or engage in behaviors toxic to our community life rather than positive problem-solving.

If you prefer, you can send your answers to any or all of the above via email to Beckie, our Parish Administrator, at beckie@stlukespc.org. Please tell us your name and email address. The results of this survey will be shared in the Report for the Annual Parish Meeting in February. Thanks for participating!!!

Thanks for your feedback and insights!!!
Annual Christian Center Dinner, Sponsored by St. Luke’s

Tuesday, January 10, 5:30 pm food drop off and volunteers gather at a NEW LOCATION, Park City Library on 1255 Park Avenue.

Come help us feed the masses of seasonal PC employees!
We will be needing prepared, homemade food and volunteer help!
We will be serving HOT, READY TO SERVE, IN DISPOSABLE CONTAINERS main dishes, side dishes of salads, fruits and vegetables. NO desserts or bread will be needed.

Volunteers will help with set up, serving and clean up.

We are still needing a few main dishes, salads and sides, and volunteers.

Thanks to those that have already signed up to bring food, and to volunteer at the dinner at the library on January 10! See you then!

Due to the construction project at the Christian Center, this event will be held at the library where there is not a kitchen facility! It is so important that all dishes arrive ready to serve and in disposable containers unless you will be sticking around for clean up and can take your dish/container home.

There will be sign up posters at the church and the chapel, or you can contact Linda Dugins for more information, ldugins@gmail.com or 435-640-2525. Thanks for all your help. Ours will be the first dinner of the season, so let’s kick it off with a fun hosting by St. Luke’s parishioners!
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

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. For any questions contact Jan at jan.e.hafner@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.

ART & SOUL SATURDAYS Monks and Mystics, Saturday, January 7: Thomas Merton offers exploration of ways Merton’s life and spirituality can impact our own spiritual growth. We do non-threatening, playful art processes from magazine images glued on cardboard, added torn decorative papers, paint, pastels, colored pencils or crayons are partners in this exploration. Remember!!! Art and Soul Saturday’s meets the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 until May 10th at the church. February 4th, Francis of Assisi will guide our art-full prayerful meditations! For more information, call Mother Claudia at 435-513-0441; email giacomaclaudia@gmail.com. A small donation for materials is appreciated.

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