We are so familiar with Jesus’ Parable of the Good Samaritan that we easily dismiss further engagement with it. Van Gogh’s energetic depiction of the Samaritan’s act of radical hospitality invites lively reflection on such acts in our own lives. Abbey of the Arts Artists’ Rule of Life” suggests how purposeful engagement with “the stranger” supports spiritual transformation. It reads:

“I commit to radical acts of hospitality by welcoming the stranger both without and within. I recognize that when I make space inside my heart for the unclaimed parts of myself, I cultivate compassion and the ability to accept those places in others”
In Need of Prayer?  St. Luke’s Prayer Ministers are available during and after the 10:30 AM service to pray with you. Our Prayer Ministers are trained to be emotionally safe, supportive and maintain confidentiality. Seek them out during Holy Eucharist or after the service. 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

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 Mision de San Francisco in Moab.
✓ All people within the world-wide Anglican Communion; pray for the people & leaders of The Church of England.

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) Cassie & Gabrielle++++ (daughters of Richard & Bernadette Rothman) Claudia and Erin++++ (friends of Beckie Raemer) Tom+++ (brother of Joe Cordery) Kelle++++ (mother of Aimee Altizer) Beth++ (niece of Karan Swanger) Mary Gene+ (mother of Sharon Christiansen)

THE HUMAN COMMUNITY AROUND THE WORLD:
✓ Safety and recovery of the many people affected by the cold & flooding in Taiwan and by super typhoon Nepartak.
✓ Comfort for the friends and families of the victims of this week’s terrorist attacks in Indonesia and the Middle East.
✓ An end to the conflicts in 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 all of Our Administrator, Beckie Raemer and her family.
✓ And for those having birthdays this week: Linda Dugins today; Ruby Diaz and Robyn Ramsey on Thursday.
The Scripture Passages
Proper 10c - July 10, 2016

Collect of the Day: Pure Love, open our eyes that we may see the goodness and beauty of every member of your creation and, in seeing, we may act with compassion, generosity and caring; with Jesus, our Brother, Teacher and Lord. AMEN.

The Hebrew Scriptures:
Reader: The passage from the Hebrew Scriptures is found in the 7th chapter of the Book of the Prophet Amos. Please read it with me by reading the parts in bold print.
This is what the Lord God showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. And the Lord said to me,

"Amos, what do you see?"
And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said,
"See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by; the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying,

"Amos has conspired against you in the center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos has said, 'Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from its land.'"

And Amaziah said to Amos,
"O see, go away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom." Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'"

"Now therefore hear the word of the Lord. You say, 'Do not prophesy against Israel, and do not preach against the house of Isaac.' Therefore thus says the Lord: 'Your wife shall become a prostitute in the city, and your sons and your daughters shall fall by the sword, and your land shall be parcelled out by line; you yourself shall die in an unclean land, and Israel shall surely go into exile away from its land.'"

Here ends the reading.

The Native American Scriptures:
Compassion and generosity are universal human virtues taught and celebrated around the world. Please read with me from the Yamana Eskimo Initiation by reading the parts in bold print.
Do not seek to benefit only yourself, but think of other people also. If you yourself have an abundance, do not say, "The others do not concern me, I need not bother about them!"

If you were lucky in hunting, let others share it. Moreover, show them the favorable spots where there are many sea lions which can be easily slain.
Let others have their share occasionally. If you want to amass everything for yourself, other people will stay away from you and no one will want to be with you.

If you should one day fall ill, no one will visit you because, for your part, you did not formerly concern yourself about others.
Grant other people something also. The Yamana do not like a person who acts selfishly. Here ends the reading.


People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.
Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"
Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?"
He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

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.]
Sometimes the Truth is Hard to Hear
Proper 10c - July 10, 2016

Please recall that last week we talked about “Discipleship as Ethics.” I suggested that we can understand much if not all of the language around spirituality and discipleship through the idea of waking up to the essential goodness, beauty and sacredness within each of us and, thereby, living fully into our potential as caring and compassionate human beings. In other words, the heart of religion is moral and ethical; it’s about how we treat one another, especially those different from ourselves.

All three of today’s scripture passages are about the call to live ethically, the call to live with compassion and generosity in all of our relationships and especially in our relationships with the poor and the powerless. Our focus today will be upon the message contained in the Book of the Prophet Amos, one of the oldest documents in the Hebrew scriptures. It was likely written around 750 B.C. We know very little about the life of Amos, but the text indicates he lived during the 8th century B.C. when Jeroboam II was King of Israel. Amos came from Tekoa, a village about 12 miles south of Jerusalem. He was probably a shepherd and he trimmed sycamore trees.

During the time of Jeroboam II, the nation of Israel became richer and larger partially due to their military successes which allowed them to control the trade routes. The Kingdom of Israel reached the zenith of its prosperity and enjoyed a substantial period of peace and security marked by artistic and commercial development. Samaria, its capital, boasted of beautiful and substantial buildings of hewn stone and ivory decorations rather than brick. Abundance, comfort and luxury so abounded that Israel had attained a prosperity unprecedented since the time of Solomon. They assumed they were going to be rich forever and expectations were high! That reminds me of a cute story….

Two friends met in the street. One looked sad and almost on the verge of tears. The other man said, "Hey my friend, how come you look like the whole world has caved in?" The sad fellow said, "Let me tell you. Three weeks ago, an uncle died and left me 50-thousand dollars." "That's not bad at all!" "Hold on, I'm just getting started. Two weeks ago, a cousin I never knew kicked-the-bucket and left me 95-thousand, tax-free to boot." "Well, that's great!" "Last week, my grandfather passed away and I inherited almost a million." "So why the glum face?" "This week - nothing!"

So, life was very good for the well-off in the nation; however, the division between rich and poor increased and social corruption and the oppression of the poor and helpless were common. In addition, although there was a great outward show of religious observance, including sacrifices and offerings, the priesthood had become corrupt as well; willing to enjoy the benefits of the wealthy while turning a blind eye to the plight of the powerless and voiceless. Several ideas were important to Amos. The first was that there is only one God and it is this God who rules over all the nations of the Earth and is worthy of complete devotion and worship. Idolatry had become common in the nation. Far too many had replaced devotion to God, the Highest Good, the Ethical Call of the Heart with devotion to lesser things, primarily devotion to getting and holding onto enormous wealth. Second, Amos warned that God’s nature is that of a judge. The Israelites were responsible for their actions and should expect God to judge and condemn their selfishness, idolatry and cruelty. And third, because of their hardness of heart toward the poor and the voiceless coupled with their devotion to their own comforts and privileges, the nation would be destroyed. There is not very much hope in the book of Amos. Amos insisted that God was angry with Israel’s people and he was going to punish them.

Continued on next page.............
What are a few examples of the practices that led Amos to proclaim such a forceful condemnation of his own nation? 1. People with power became more and more willing to treat people without privilege as objects, things, commodities to be used, bought and sold for their own financial gain. Some people became rich by selling other people into slavery. Amos declared, “This is what the Lord says: ‘I will certainly punish Israel’s people for their many sins. I will do this because they sold good, innocent people for silver. They sold poor people for the price of a pair of shoes.’”

2. Those who had money used that money to gain a financial advantage over those who had much less. Some of the wealthy wanted to make sure that other people stayed poor so that they could maintain their economic and political advantages. For example, many of the poorer farmers had large debts which they had difficulty paying. When a farmer, perhaps due to a failed crop or a family illness, was unable to repay his debts in the manner expected, rather than help the farmer, those in power took their land and turned it over to the creditors. This left the farmer without any means to feed himself and his family. This was against the law of Moses. Again, Amos declared, “It was as if they pushed those poor people’s faces into the ground. And then they walked on them. They have stopped listening to people who suffer.”

3. Some attempted to silence those who confronted these practices, as we saw in today’s passage from Amos: “And Amaziah said to Amos, ‘O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king’s sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.’” Amaziah’s plea is understandable. No individual and no nation wants and enjoys being told that either their way of thinking or their behavior is immoral. And who in the world would want someone to point out that the way they are making their money is unethical? And, therefore, it’s simply easier to “shoot the messenger,” to get rid of the person making us uncomfortable. But there’s a problem with that. Often, the messages that make us the most uncomfortable are the ones we most need to hear. And often, the intensity of our anger and resentment of such messages is driven by the contents of our own conscience. The reason we feel so upset, so angry and so scornful is because our essential goodness and beauty deep, deep inside of us - a voice that has gotten lost and covered over by years of practiced rationalizations and rehearsed excuses - recognizes the truth in the uncomfortable message.

I think a good working definition of what it means to be a disciple or student of Jesus is to be someone who spends most of one’s time trying to pay attention to the voice of the goodness and beauty deep within; the ethical call of the heart. Perhaps the practiced rationalizations and the rehearsed excuses we use to muffle our call to care for the poor and the different, the minimum wage worker and those working under inhumane conditions need to give way to the declarations of our hearts as they are called to the life of caring, concern and compassion. Adam Smith once wrote, “No society can surely be flourishing and happy, of which the far greater part of the members are poor and miserable….To feel much for others and little for ourselves; to restrain our selfishness and exercise our benevolent affections, constitute the perfection of human nature.” I think both Amos and Jesus would agree.

Blessings,
Charles+

Check Out Our New Website:  www.stlukesparkcity.org

It’s not completely finished, but there is enough content to make it worth a visit. 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. Happy exploring!!!
God's Grace comes in many forms these days at St. Elizabeth's.

Recently a surprise email caught me off guard: "Did you get my message about the van?" My response: "Well, no, I did not, what van?"

It turns out the vestry of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Park City, our partner parish, decided to offer us their van that they were not using. It is a 12 passenger Ford Econoline which is 18 years old with low mileage.

I knew we could put the van to good use, my only question was "what is low mileage for an 18 year old van?" It turns out the van had only 42,000 miles on it with new tires and a new battery! What a gift!

The van has already been used weekly for the Arts Kids spring program. Additionally, five youth and 2 adults who participated in the New Beginnings Program at St. Mark's Cathedral traveled to Salt Lake the end of April in the van. This past week the van has been busy transporting six of our teens to Moab to participate in the Diocesan hiking, river rafting trip.

The van will continue to be used for church activities and youth events. Indeed, God's Grace is alive and well.

Thank you, St. Luke's, Park City!
Will You Please Help Ted Clayton Plan a Special Event?

The marketing team at St. Luke's has decided to have a handful of special events throughout the upcoming year. These are opportunities for us to invite our friends and family to attend church with us those days. The first will be for “Back to School.” Ted Clayton has volunteered to lead the planning group that will design and implement this special occasion.

If you are interested in using your creativity and planning skills to help Ted, please contact him today at ted.p.clayton@gmail.com. We need to begin planning the first event right away.

Thank you!!!!

Is God Calling You to the Ordained Ministry of the Permanent Diaconate?

It is the desire of our Bishop that every parish in our diocese be served by the ministry of the diaconate. What role does a deacon play? During the ordination of a deacon, the Bishop addresses the ordinand: “God now calls you to a special ministry of servant hood directly under your bishop. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely. You are to interpret to the church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world. Your life and teaching are to show Christ’s people that in serving the helpless, they are serving Christ himself.”

Deacons are to bring to the congregation needs we see in our community or world. They are to remind our congregations of our baptismal covenant that in serving others, we are serving Christ.

Requirements for ordination include working with others to actively discern one’s call to ordained ministry and two years of part-time study at the Utah Ministry Formation Program. If you sense that you are perhaps being called to serve the congregation of St. Luke’s as a Permanent Deacon and want more information, please speak to either one of the clergy or to Ann Deyo, Chair of the St. Luke’s Parish Discernment Team. Is your heart nudging you to say Yes to the Sacred’s call?
**CENTERING PRAYER:**
Meets on Monday mornings at 9:30 AM and 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.c.hafner@gmail.com

**ST. LUKE'S CARE GUILD**
If you or someone you know has any requests or needs, please contact Harriet, harrietmstephens@gmail.com, (435)655-1888 or Katherine Martz at katherinemartz@comcast.net.

**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, "A New Harmony: The Spirit, The Earth, and The Human Soul" by J. Phillip Newell. 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.

**WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**
Will resume in the Fall. Our tradition has been to pick a book to read over them summer and get together for a Sunday brunch, hike, and discussion of the book. Our book this summer is "Crazy Christians-A Call to follow Jesus" by Michael Curry. The brunch date time and place will be announced later. Contact Mary at 645-3963 if you have questions.

**TAI-CHI**
Tai Chi for Arthritis and Health will continue to be offered on Wednesdays from 5:10-6 PM. There will be a one-week break on July 13.

**WOMEN'S GET TOGETHER**
Please join us on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM. We gather to get to know and support one another. Our July 12th gathering will be at the home of Harriet Stephens. Please bring an appetizer, dessert, main or drink to share.

**Directions:** From the Main Church: Take highway 224 to Kearns Blvd.(248), head towards I 40, but don't get on I 40! Stay on 248 to Kamas
From Heber City/Midway: take exit 4 and turn right toward Kamas. Drive toward Kamas about 10 miles after the intersection with I 40. At the bottom of the last hill, turn left on to 2000 W (Democrat Ally), the 2nd house on the right. Bring a light jacket. We will be outside! Maybe even a campfire! Harriets Cell #: (435) 655-1888.

**HOSPITALITY GROUNDS**
**COMMUNITY GARDEN NEEDS**
Would you be willing to help donate produce to the Christian Center and Peace House? For about 2 months each summer, we will be needing to harvest, wash and deliver produce to local food pantry's. This will take very little training and is a great opportunity for groups of people to bond of a good deed. This would be a great Shepherding Group activity! Would your kids or grandkids have a "team" or "club" that would want to volunteer a few hours? To offer your help or for more information, contact Aimee Altizer, aimeealtizer@gmail.com, 801-915-9059.

**A COURSE IN MIRACLES**
Our A Course in Miracles study group will continue to meet during the summer. Please join us at 4:00 each Wednesday in the St. Luke's library to read and discuss theory and practice of this thought system based on non-judgment and love. For information call Ann Fiery, 304-617-5714, or visit www.acim.org.

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**REMEMBER** that you can now donate online through our website to contribute to our church and its missions. Click in the “Make an online donation” button and you’ll be able to use your credit or debit card. www.stlukespc.org You can also fill out an offering card found in the pews to make a Credit Card donation.