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
July 15, 2018
Please take this home with you today.

Love God….Think for Yourself!

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

Jonathan Green

David and all the house of Israel were dancing before God with all their strength and might, with songs and lyres and harps and tambourines and castanets and cymbals.

2 Samuel 6:5

I cannot dance, O Lord, Unless you lead me.
If you wish me to leap joyfully, Let me see You dance and sing -

Then I will leap into Love - And from Love into Knowledge, That sweetest Fruit beyond human sense. Then I will stay with You, whirling.
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. Elizabeth’s Church in Whiterocks. And for all people within the world-wide Anglican Communion; pray for the people & leaders of The Church of Kenya.

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), Rita+++ (Baden), Alexa+++ (granddaughter of Deedee Sihvonen), Jennifer+++ (Strachan) Tom+++ (brother of Joe Cordery) Kaylee ++++ (friend of Beckie Raemer) Jerry+ +++ (friend of Janet van Hartesvelt) Fr. Roland+ (friend of Claudia Giacoma) Rick & the Giacoma Family+

THE HUMAN COMMUNITY AROUND THE WORLD:
✠ Pray for peace between the United States, Iran, North Korea, Syria and Russia.
✠ Pray for the human community that we may find the wisdom to live in greater respect and harmony with 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.
✠ For a lasting and permanent peace between Israel and all of her neighbors.

THOSE WHO HAVE DIED......

PLEASE GIVE THANKS FOR.....
Our Ushers and Greeters and their families.

For those having Birthdays this week:
Cathy Callow-Heussner on Tuesday; Debbi Crosby on Wednesday and Mthr.

If your birthday does not appear on 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 Scriptures
Proper 10 Yr. B: July 15, 2018

The Collect of the Day: It is never easy to deliver bad news even when that bad news is intended to save someone’s life. We pray for the courage to tell the truth to those who do not wish to hear it; with Jesus our Brother, Teacher and Lord.

From the Hebrew Scriptures:
Our first lesson comes from the 7th chapter of the Book of the Prophet Amos. This is yet another story of a prophet being charged to deliver an unwelcome message to the people and government of his nation. Please read with me from the Hebrew tradition 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 very centre 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 his land.' "

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." 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.'"

Here ends the reading.

From the Muslim Tradition:
The Prophets inevitably met resistance, disbelief, and persecution when they attempted to spread their message. Thus Moses endured the murmurings of his people, Muhammad was branded a charlatan and pursued by his fellow tribesmen of the Quraysh, and Jesus was rejected and slandered by many of the Jews of his day and eventually was executed as an insurrectionist. Please read with me from the Holy Qur’an by reading the parts in bold print….The Messenger says, “O my Lord, behold, my people have taken this Qur’an as a thing to be shunned.” Even so we have appointed to every Prophet an enemy from among the sinners;

   but your Lord suffices as a guide and as a helper. When you recite the Qur’an we place between you and those who believe not in the hereafter a hidden barrier; and we place upon their hearts veils lest they should understand it, and in their ears a deafness;

   and when you make mention of your Lord alone in the Qur’an, they turn their backs in aversion.

Here ends the reading.

From the Christian Gospels:  Mark 6:14-29
Priest:    The Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ
According to Mark.

People:  Glory to you, Lord Christ.

King Herod heard of Jesus and his disciples, for Jesus’ name had become known. Some were saying, “John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him.” But others said, “It is Elijah.” And others said, “It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.” But when Herod heard of it, he said, “John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.” For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip’s wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, “It is not lawful for you to have your brother’s wife.” And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, “Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it.” And he solemnly swore to her, “Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.” She went out and said to her mother, “What should I ask for?” She replied, “The head of John the baptizer.” Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, “I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter.” The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John’s head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

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 body and blood of your Lord, but also 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.

   Priest:    The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ
   According to Mark.

People:  Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Our Rector, Charles+, will be in California on vacation from July 9th to 30th. If you need pastoral care, please contact the Church Office.  Thanks!
Aging 80 plus --
It’s The Eighth Day of Creation!

Author James Fowler describes six stages of spiritual development. He believes few reach a final 6th stage, “universalizing faith”, a life of full service without worry or doubt. Erik Erikson describes the tasks of each of eight stages of human psycho/social development, his final stage in old age described as “generativity vs despair”. After his death, his unsung research partner and wife created a ninth stage, one celebrating a mystical stage of recognizing an inextricable interconnectedness in creation.

In the Judeo-Christian tradition Earth is formed in stages represented by the seven days of creation. Scientifically we are aware that new worlds are created every day. For many of us beginning the eighth decade of life is experienced as if it were truly an “Eighth Day of Creation”. Everything seems to be changing, in ourselves and the world we inhabit. Another whole psycho-social/spiritual world opens, inviting us to cultivate inner seeds planted over a lifetime, thereby creating new ways to be and respond. In so doing we can experience greater meaning and depth in our ordinary day-to-day living.

Advanced aging causes us to re-think what it is that gives us vitality and guidance in living life! And, along with many, many others, we usually find that the spirituality of our 40’s, 50’s and later are no longer adequate to address the paradoxical challenges of 80+ year olds!

A Special Invitation

With an eye toward both personal and community wellbeing, those who are 80+ years old are invited to explore with each other about creative ways to engage with this “Eighth Day of Creation”. You are invited to begin the conversation during brunch, Wednesday, July 25 at 10:30 a.m. at Claudia+ and Lou Giacoma’s, 7362 Tall Oaks Drive, Pinebrook.

Below are some things to think about before the 25th. Think about them both in the context of your own personal life as well as the church community and the society in which we live.

1. What are the needs to be reclaimed, retained and/or reaffirmed?
2. What needs should be released and relinquished?
3. What are the needs to be re-formed?
4. What is the “new” that beckons?
5. What has been your experience as an aging person?
6. How do you think about limitations found in advancing age?
7. In what ways, if any, do you find it necessary to reevaluate and change your religious or spiritual practice or theology?
8. How do you think of “faith”? What meaning does it offer?
9. What non-Christian perspectives on living and on death and dying have been helpful in end-of-life discussions?
10. What has been your experience of non-religious ways one comes to terms with the end of one's life?
11. Can you talk about your personal story about how a healing or a peace can come near the end of life?
12. What ways have you found to support others in coming to terms with death and psycho/spiritual needs?

If you would like to join the discussion…….
Please RSVP by phone to 435-645-9863 or 435-513-0441 or email us at giacomaclaudia@gmail.com. We have only ten places at the table!

Mthr. Claudia Giacoma+
Q: By Andy Alexis
I read Bishop Spong’s fine book "Unbelievable"; in one chapter, he talks about advances in science (such as the size of the universe) that have forced us to reconsider the tenets of our faith that were codified before those things were understood. I also read Neil Degrasse Tyson’s most recent book: he says the universe is estimated to be 90 billion light-years across and contains 100 billion galaxies. My question: where is God in the universe? Is God bigger than the universe? How can God be both so big but small enough for us to have a chance of comprehension?

A: By Rev. Lauren Van Ham
Dear Andy,
Thank you! Your provocative questions encourage our minds and our hearts to bend toward one another; a great spiritual practice for us all. In my understanding, this is the holy ground where theology, social transformation, and astro-physics (no kidding) happens. We know that science and academics diligently strive for proof, statistically-significant data, peer-reviewed checks and balances, and empirical evidence. In many places, this effort is needed and valuable. It also erodes ancient wisdom held by indigenous minds, other species and even sacred texts explaining astronomy, geology, and botany in ways that science might initially dismiss.

Within our intuition, our star-gazing, or sunset watching, we stumble upon truths. The revelations offered in our dreams, song-writing and poetry often point us toward a deep-knowing that our imaginations have been holding for the moment when we would be ready to appreciate them. Herein lies the answer. God is everywhere in the universe because God IS the universe. The singularity (Big Bang, or Flaring Forth), was God (Godhead) and the indwelling of God. Meister Eckhart, the 12th century mystic, wrote, “God’s darkness is a superessential darkness. A mystery behind mystery, a mystery within mystery that no light has ever penetrated.”

Today, we know our universe (God) has been expanding for 13.7 billion years. All that has been, is and will be is born of this one source. As you’ve mentioned, depending on the day, this awareness can feel awe-inspiring, gigantic and pretty impersonal until… Until we recall that God is IN all of it. Carl Sagan said, “We’re made of star stuff. We are a way for the cosmos to know itself.” As co-creators with God (cosmos), it suddenly becomes very personal. All of it. My encounter with the crow in the grass is intimacy with Creation. The deep sigh I feel when I hold my friend’s child close is a brush with Divinity. The uplift or relief that overtakes me when I leave the street to enter the hallowed hush of the cathedral, is God’s whisper reminding me that I am safe, whole, and loved. Our acts of love, engagement, and curiosity are precisely how God sees God…and continues to expand.

And so, Andy, in this creative tension between the vast and micro, I want to offer a closing suggestion: your reading list is inspiring. If you’re not already in a book group, please form one! When small circles gather to create space and reflection for questions like yours, social transformation happens. May we all bow to the Mystery and celebrate our co-creative responsibility with reverence and wonder.

~ Rev. Lauren Van Ham

About the Author
Lauren Van Ham was born and raised beneath the big sky of the Midwest; Lauren holds degrees from Carnegie Mellon University, Naropa University and The Chaplaincy Institute. Following her ordination in 1999, Lauren served as an interfaith chaplain in both healthcare (adolescent psychiatry and palliative care), and corporate settings (organizational development and employee wellness). Her passion and training in the fine arts, spirituality and Earth’s teachings has supported her specialization in eco-ministry, grief and loss, and sacred activism. Lauren tends a private spiritual direction practice and serves as Dean for The Chaplaincy Institute in Berkeley, CA.
Inalienable Rights
Sunday, June 25, 2018
(Reprinted with permission from “Richard Rohr’s Daily Meditation”)

No one can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. —Matthew 6:24

In his Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7), Jesus critiques and reorders the values of his culture from the bottom up. He “betrays” the prevailing institutions of family, religion, power, and economy (i.e., controlling resources) by his loyalty to another world vision which he calls the Reign of God. Such loyalty cost him popularity, the support of the authorities, intense inner agony, and finally his own life. By putting the picture into the largest possible frame, Jesus called into question all smaller frames and forced a radical transformation of consciousness upon his hearers. Most seemed unready for this paradigm shift, including his inner circle.

What is Western culture’s primary frame of reference? Money and power seem to come first. The dominant system in our society is production and consumption. Manipulative marketing convinces us we must have the newest version, regardless of what we actually need. Status is attained by having money and the freedom to use it. Uncontrolled greed (no longer considered a capital sin) widens the gap between the haves and the have nots, the powerful and the powerless.

Today in the U.S., the 400 richest people own more wealth than the entire bottom 64 percent of the population (204 million people). Over 40 million Americans live below the poverty line. [1]

When the bottom line is money and politicians are in the pockets of big corporations, resources as foundational as clean water, housing, and health care go to the highest bidder. This inequality is absolutely counter to the Gospel message. In “The Souls of Poor Folk”—an audit of America fifty years after Martin Luther King, Jr.’s Poor People’s Campaign—the message is clear: There is inalienable worth and intrinsic value to every person, regardless of wealth or public position. Policies that hurt the poor are a violation of that inalienable value. . . . We are all worthy of the very necessities of life.

To be a Christian (and a decent human being!) we cannot “make moral claims about caring for the souls of people, but then pass policies that destroy their bodies and communities.” Economic justice is not popular. Who will hold our politicians and corporations accountable today? Jim Wallis, founder of the faith-based nonprofit Sojourners, writes:

What if the calls for economic justice were made in the name of Jesus—or Amos, Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Micah—instead of from more ideological sources and causes? . . . What if behavior in the economic spheres of our lives became the substance of adult Sunday school curriculums and Bible study groups? And what if the hard political questions about corporate responsibility, tax benefits, trade policies, budget priorities, and campaign financing were coming from religious congregations that political leaders couldn’t afford to ignore? Nothing could do more to bring about a change of fortunes in the battles of class warfare.

There has been a permanent state of class warfare of the rich against the poor throughout history, but for some strange reason it is only called class warfare when it is the poor against the rich and never when it is the rich trampling upon the poor. Why is it that way do you suppose?
Many Thanks to EVERYONE Who Has Worked to Repair and Improve our Church Building and to EVERYONE Who Will Do So in the Future!!!

So many of you have already done so much to clean and repair our church building and our whole community is grateful for your efforts. **THANK YOU!!** And there is yet MUCH more to be done. Please check the job board in the church for a task you may enjoy accomplishing. Beckie will be posting many additional tasks soon so please keep checking week to week.

If you have already put your name on a card for a job, please complete your task so that we may keep track of what still needs to be done that no one has signed up for. Please let Beckie, Rusty or Katherine know when you job is complete so we may move it to our completed list of jobs.

Some of the tasks that have already been done are VERY noticeable, our church building is looking better already. Imagine how great it will look when all tasks are completed.

Some of the new additional jobs can be done on your own time, either by yourself or with a friend.

Our next clean up day is **SATURDAY, JULY 28TH BEGINNING AT 9:30 AM.**

Please schedule this on your calendars. Our June 30th day was very productive. However there are still many things that need to be done. If you were not able to participate on the June date, please come on July 28th. We would like every individual to participate in some way. Let’s not leave it up to just a few people. **EVERYONE** needs to show some loving care for our beautiful Church building.

Please thank the following people that showed up and worked very hard on our Saturday, June 30th clean up day.

*Jim & Krissa Bolton, Nancy Conrow, Linda Dugins, Mike Fiery, Ed Fiscus, Carleen Gardner, Judy Hanley, Pete & Mary Larson, Katherine & Rusty Martz, William Martz, Dudley McIlhenny, Teresa McMillan, Karan & John Swanger, Teresa & Neil Wilcox and Barb Wine*

*Pizza, drinks and dessert donations were made by several folks who wish to remain nameless!*
Exciting Happenings

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:
Newcomers will find info about our church and what to expect when they visit.
www.stlukesparkcity.org. In addition, 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. Beginning on July 28th we will begin reading Among Women… (Lives of Challenge, Courage and Faith in Biblical Times) by Carol M. Perry. Please join us for coffee, fellowship and a lively discussion! For more info please call Nancy Conrow, 435-640-0556 or nancyconrow@gmail.com.

WOMEN’S GATHERING:
We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM. Please bring a drink or a dish to share. Join us! Our August 14 gathering will be at the home of Kim Svoboda (Salt Lake) Thanks! I hope we see you! Cathy Callow-Heusser, 435-757-2724

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

HOW JESUS BECAME GOD:
This class will take a summer break and resume on August 14th. For more info, contact Charles +

TAI CHI:
Tai Chi classes for continuing students will meet on Wednesdays at 5:10pm.

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, harriettmstephens@gmail.com, (435)655-1888.

A COURSE IN MIRACLES:
Our ACIM (A Course in Miracles) Study Group meets in the St. Luke's Library at 4:00 on Wednesday afternoons. If you would like to join us, call or text Ann Fiery for additional information, 304-617-5714.