Jesus said, “Follow me.” And one said, “Sure, but first excuse me for a couple of days, please. I have to make arrangements for my father’s funeral.” Then Jesus said, “First things first. Your business is life, not death. And life is urgent. Announce God’s kingdom!”

Then another said, “I’m ready to follow you Master, but first excuse me while I get things straightened out at home.” Jesus said, “No procrastination. No backward looks. You can’t put God’s kingdom off till tomorrow.”

FOR REFLECTION:
Do you hear Jesus saying, “Follow me”? Is following Jesus and living in God’s Kingdom an either/or proposition, doing this OR that, being here OR there? Can we authentically follow Jesus by simply being truly present and listening deeply to one another, wherever we are, and offering love, compassion and justice? Can we follow Jesus by intentionally being God’s grace to others? 

The Rev. Claudia Giacoma+

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 record for posting on You-Tube the sermon of the day. Your image may be captured during recording.

Image: "The Kingdom of God" copyright He Qi, used by permission
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 St. Stephen’s in West Valley.
✓ All people within the world-wide Anglican Communion; pray for the people & leaders of The Church of Ceylon.

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 & Galen ++++ (granddaughter and friend of Deedee Silvonen), 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) Shandor++++ (friend of Harriet Stephens) Terry+++ (mother of Chris Munro)

THE HUMAN COMMUNITY AROUND THE WORLD: 
✓ Comfort for friends and families of the victims in the Orlando shootings and healing for that community.
✓ Safety and comfort for the many people affected by the extreme heat.
✓ An end to the wars in Ukraine, Syria, Iraq & Afghanistan and relief for all victims of these conflicts.
✓ A lasting, permanent peace between Israel & her neighbors.

THOSE WHO HAVE DIED…….

PLEASE GIVE THANKS FOR......
✓ For all of Our Music Director, Manuel Clayton and his family.
✓ And for those having birthdays this week: Dyan Pignatelli today; Charles Fiscus on Monday and Janet van Hartesvelt on Friday.
**The Scripture Passages**

**Proper 8c - June 26, 2016**

**Collect of the Day:** Dearest God, our hearts desire to know and walk with you. We long to walk the spiritual and ethical path of Jesus; the path that directs us to love you, the world and all of its inhabitants. Grant us the courage to follow the call of our hearts; with Jesus, our Brother, Teacher and Lord. AMEN.

**The Hebrew Scriptures:**

**Reader:** Our first story from Scripture comes from the 19th chapter of the First Book of Kings. The call of Elisha is not like other prophetic call narratives in the Old Testament. This story lacks the dramatic visions of Ezekiel, the cherubim and seraphim of Isaiah, the burning bush of Moses, or even Jeremiah's reassuring word from God. In fact, Elisha's call does not involve any direct encounter with God at all. Instead, it is the prophet Elijah who initiates Elisha's change in vocation. The first stage of Elisha's new call is to be a follower and servant -- a disciple, as it were -- of this holy man. Please read with me by reading the parts in bold print.

The Lord said to Elijah, "Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram. Also you shall anoint Jehu son of Nimshi as king over Israel; and you shall anoint Elisha son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah as prophet in your place."

So he set out from there, and found Elisha son of Shaphat, who was plowing. There were twelve yoke of oxen ahead of him, and he was with the twelfth. Elijah passed by him and threw his mantle over him. He left the oxen, ran after Elijah, and said, "Let me kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow you."

Then Elijah said to him, "Go back again; for what have I done to you?" He returned from following him, took the yoke of oxen, and slaughtered them; using the equipment from the oxen, he boiled their flesh, and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out and followed Elijah, and became his servant. Here ends the reading.

**The Buddhist Scriptures:**

If any venture is to succeed, it must begin well. A good beginning means, first of all, internal preparation. A person should purify his heart prior to starting any venture; furthermore, he must steel himself with firm resolution and gather sufficient means to bear any and all burdens on the way to the goal. This is as true for the spiritual life as it is for business and family life. Please read the following from *The Perfection of Wisdom* with me by reading the parts in bold print.

A ship, which is not well prepared, in the ocean
Goes to destruction, together with its goods and merchants.

But when a ship is well prepared, and well joined together, Then it does not break up, and all the goods get to the other shore. Just so a bodhisattva, exalted in faith, but deficient in wisdom, swiftly comes to a failure in enlightenment.

**But when he is well joined to wisdom, the foremost perfection, He experiences, unharmed and uninjured, the enlightenment of the Jinas.**

Here ends the reading.


**People:** Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When the days drew near for Jesus to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?"

But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village. As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."


**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.]
Ethics as Discipleship: Part I
Proper 8c - June 26, 2016

Today’s sermon is part one of a two-part offering. All of today’s scripture passages in one way or another touch upon the idea of responding to a call from the Sacred; to the call to discipleship. In the story from First Kings, Elijah calls Elisha to abandon his life as a farmer in order to become the Prophet’s disciple and apprentice. From the Buddhist scriptures we are warned that the spiritual path will require patience, endurance and commitment for which we must be prepared. And the story from Luke contains a similar warning.

Walking the spiritual path of Jesus; becoming a disciple of Jesus will demand a tenacious and steely commitment from the outset. We must be prepared to encounter many obstacles; most of them in our own hearts and minds. We cannot expect the fruits of our labors to come either quickly or easily.

That reminds me of a story…A journalist was assigned to the Jerusalem bureau of his newspaper. He gets an apartment overlooking the Wailing Wall. After several weeks he realizes that whenever he looks at the wall he sees an old Jewish man praying vigorously. The journalist wondered whether there was a publishable story here. He goes down to the wall, introduces himself and says: "You come every day to the wall. What are you praying for?" The old man replies: "What am I praying for? In the morning I pray for world peace, then I pray for the brotherhood of man. I go home, have a glass of tea, and I come back to the wall to pray for the eradication of illness and disease from the earth." The journalist is taken by the old man's sincerity and persistence. "You mean you have been coming to the wall to pray every day for these things?" The old man nods. "How long have you been coming to the wall to pray for these things?" The old man becomes reflective and then replies: "How long? Maybe twenty, twenty-five years." The amazed journalist finally asks: "How does it feel to come and pray every day for over 20 years for these things?" "How does it feel?" he replies. "It feels like I’m talking to a wall."

Today, I invite all of us to think about the call to discipleship in two non-traditional ways. Traditionally, we tend to think dualistically. We automatically talk about the sacred vs. the secular. The sacred is the term we apply to God and the beings and objects we assume are directly associated with God: angels, cherubims, the Ten Commandments and the Holy Bible, etc. Everything else is “secular,” not-holy, corrupted or “fallen.” You cannot blame us for thinking dualistically; it’s our religious heritage. As children, we were taught in Sunday School an interpretation of Genesis that suggested that once upon a time the world was without any form of death, corruption and un-holiness. That all changed when Adam and Eve broke rule #1: “You shall not eat of the Tree of Knowledge.” Ever since, reality has been divided between sacred reality and secular (less-than or sinful) reality.

But I think we may benefit from a thought experiment. Let’s spend a few minutes thinking about all of reality as one reality. What if there is no sacred reality that stands in contrast to some other secular reality? The great theologian Hans Urs von Balthasar once noted, “In the trinitarian dogma God is one, good, true, and beautiful because God is essentially Love, and Love supposes the one, the other, and their unity.”

Continued on Next Page…….
In other words, von Balthasar is suggesting that, from God’s perspective, that is, from Pure Love’s point of view, we are all beautiful, fundamentally good and essentially sacred. And we are invited to see one another that way.

One implication of this is that it changes the assumptions we make around the meaning of religion, spirituality and discipleship. Traditionally, we have thought dualistically about these things. Spirituality has been about turning away from the secular world and toward an other-worldly light. Religion has been about beliefs, doctrines and practices that support our abandonment of the secular in favor of “holy things.” And discipleship has almost always meant, first, being converted from a secular way of thinking to a sacred way (which includes holding the correct theological beliefs and assumptions) and, second, devoting one’s life to persuading others to do the same. Put another way, “discipleship” is strongly associated with the idea of becoming someone else; of being “transformed” from a secular citizen to a sacred, saintly religious person.

If we, however, abandon our insistence upon thinking and speaking in terms of the secular vs. the sacred, we can begin to see and affirm a different understanding. If we give ourselves permission to see ourselves the way Pure Love sees us, we can affirm that spirituality is less about becoming someone other; some new saintly being and mostly about waking up to the goodness, beauty and love that already is our essence. Religion becomes the concrete ideas and practices that support and deepen this awakening. And discipleship loses most if its dogmatic and all of its traditional conversion baggage to be understood as primarily ethical and universal in nature. In other words, if we think of all reality as one and we, therefore, give ourselves permission to see the meaning of spirituality and religion through the eyes of the Love of which von Balthasar wrote, we begin to see that walking the path of Jesus has much, much more to do with ethics (how we treat one another) than with holding tenaciously onto historical religious doctrines and beliefs. We can begin to understand our religious tradition in a new way.

To explain this, I want to turn to the ideas of Emmanuel Levinas. Levinas was an important 20th century thinker and a student of Martin Buber. I am almost out of time so all I can do today is to set the stage for next Sunday when we will learn more about Levinas’ ideas. For thousands of years, various philosophers and theologians have wrestled with the question of morality and ethics: how can we know what we ought to do in each situation in life? To what source or authority do we turn to answer the question of the moral ought? The Church has always taught that we should look to the Holy Scriptures and to Church Teaching. Immanuel Kant suggested that our reason and rationality will provide the answers we seek. Thinkers like John Stuart Mills and Jeremy Bentham have argued that we should turn toward that which will maximize pleasure or the good for the most people. Others have offered additional starting points. For Levinas, we begin the search to understand morality and ethics by examining the experiences of the human individual. For him, ethics is, first and foremost, born on the concrete level of person to person contact. Thinking carefully about what it means to experience our core humanity in relationship to others will allow us to explore not only the meaning of ethics, but also the meaning of spirituality and discipleship. More next week.

Check Out Our New Website:  [www.stlukesparkcity.org](http://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 and programs. Soon, you will be able to view sermons through a link to You-Tube on your phone or home computer. Happy exploring!!!
The Current Financial Health of Our Parish Community

May Total Pledge & Plate Donations $ 30,517

- Budgeted Pledge Income $ 20,792
- Received PLEDGE Income $ 28,414

😊 Monthly Surplus $ 7,622

- Budgeted Plate Income $ 2,500
- Received PLATE Income $ 2,103

😢 Monthly Deficit $ 397

May Income from other sources $ 7,133

May TOTAL Income $ 37,651
May TOTAL Expense $ 26,227

😊 MAY SURPLUS $ 11,424

TOTAL Year To Date Income $131,015
TOTAL Year To Date Expense $131,422

😢 YEARLY DEFICIT $ 407
End of Month Cash Balance $ 23,993

Missions Balance on Jan. 1, 2016 $ 8,234
Missions Yearly Income $ 8,591
Missions Yearly Expense $ 4,387
TOTAL MISSIONS BALANCE $12,438

INCOME
YTD Budget = $128,475 YTD Actual = $131,015 Over budget by $ 2,540 😊
Monthly Budget = $ 25,695 Monthly Actual = $ 37,651 Over budget by $ 11,956 😊

EXPENSES
YTD Budget = $139,173 YTD Actual = $131,422 Under budget by $ 7,751 😘
Monthly Budget = $ 27,355 Monthly Actual = $ 26,227 Under budget by $ 1,128 😘

FINANCES
Some members responded to our plea for help by either paying their pledge up to date, or just by making a donation. This is what resulted in our cash balance coming back up to a regular amount. I am thankful to those that responded.

I ask that you still hold back on any expenses that are not immediately necessary. Summer time is coming and this is a time when funds can get low as people travel and don’t keep up on pledges.

EXPENSES
We did have some higher expenses in May.

Our Mac Mini computer that is used for all of the shared files that Charles and Beckie work on, totally crashed. It was replaced by a Network Attached Storage (NAS) system. This will act as a server for all shared files. Fortunately, we had back ups of everything on that computer and we were able to recover all files, as far as we can tell. The cost of the system was $1100. The installation and time spent in setting up and recovering files charges will show in June.

We also had our annual Alarm System Inspection for both buildings in May. This is where they test the sprinkler systems, fire extinguishers etc. This is a budgeted expense but all of it was in the month of May.

STATEMENTS
Statements were sent out at the end of May. I am hoping that people that are behind in their giving will catch up in order to help our cash balance.

If you ever have any questions, please feel free to contact me at anytime. I am more than happy to go over any line item, budget or any other questions that you may have.

- Beckie Raemer
Do You Enjoy the Creativity Involved in Planning Special Events?

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.” If you are interested in being on a committee, please contact a member of the marketing team or Charles+ and let us know. We need to begin planning the first event right away.

Thank you,
Pam Davey, Aimee Altizer and
Ted Clayton

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.

In worship, a deacon’s role reflects what we do in our everyday lives. They are servants, taking care of those in need, and messengers telling others about the spiritual and ethical path of Jesus. During the first part of our service, the Liturgy of the Word, deacons assume the role of messenger and bearer of good news when they read the Gospel. Deacons may also invite the congregation to pray for those in need during the intercessions, and they may preach from time to time. During the second part of the service, Holy Communion, deacons assume the servant role of preparing the Table, then they receive, prepare, and place on it the bread and wine. The dismissal at the end of the service is also a part of the deacon’s role of making announcements. The deacon sends the congregation out to love and serve the Lord.

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, harrietstephens@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 include 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 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. Please bring an appetizer, dessert, main or drink to share. Also please bring a food item for the food bank drive if you think of it.

**TAI-CHI**
We need at least six students to continue. If interested please sign the registration sheet on the bulletin board. You can also email Bob Casey at bob@journey4healthnow.com. His class on Tai Chi for Health and Arthritis is open to almost anyone at any ability level. This is the only form of tai chi to receive the endorsement of the National Arthritis Association and the National Center for Disease and Control. Classes are on Wednesdays, at 5:10 PM, immediately following A Course on Miracles. Classes will last approximately an hour. A donation of $30 is requested for a six-week series. If interested or have questions, please email Bob at bob@journey4healthnow.com. You can also see Bob after church.

**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.

**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, aimeeal-tizer@gmail.com, 801-915-9059.

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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.**