During our Sunday worship we regularly confirm the we offer to God our “sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving” almost without any expectation or awareness of the impact upon us of “the overtures of love from the heart of God” descending upon us.

(Richard J. Foster)

Annie Dillard suggests that Crash Helmets are needed for worship:

“Why do people in church seem like cheerful, brainless tourists on a packaged tour of the Absolute? … Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we blithely invoke? Or, as I suspect, does no one believe a word of it? The churches are children playing on the floor with their chemistry sets, mixing up a batch of TNT to kill a Sunday morning. It is madness to wear ladies’ straw hats and velvet hats to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews. For… the waking god may draw us to where we can never return.”

Teaching a Stone to Talk

Jan Richardson’s painting “If You See Me as I Am Being Taken” (Google “The Painted Prayer Book) captures the same burning energy experienced by the Israelites in the Prophet Elijah’s sacrifice to God. (Read the whole story in 1 Kings 18:20-39)

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 & evangelicals, moderates, agnostics, progressives & liberals - all spiritual seekers who are searching for an approach to faith that makes the most sense to them personally....

AND ALL ARE WELCOME!

No matter where you are in your journey, you are welcome & wanted among us!!
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. Michael’s Church in Brigham City.
✓ All people within the world-wide Anglican Communion; pray for the people & leaders of The Church of South India.

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 Sihvonen), Gerry ++++ (wife of Jim Brooks) Mildred & Tom ++++ (mother and brother of Cheryl Popple) Cassie & Gabrielle++++ (daughters of Richard & Bernadette Rothman) Claudia, Ron and Erin++++ (friends of Beckie Raemer) Amanda++++ (mother of Abbey Cordery) Quinton++++ (Rothman) Brad++++ (uncle of Harriet Stephens) Fr. Linc++++ (Ure) Linda++++ (friend of Shelle Jennings) Kelle++ (mother of Aimee Altizer)

THE HUMAN COMMUNITY AROUND THE WORLD:
✓ Safety and comfort for the many people affected by the tornados and floods in the Plains the Midwest & the South.
✓ An end to the wars in Ukraine, Syria, Iraq & Afghanistan and relief for all victims of these conflicts.
✓ For wise and merciful hearts in each of the E.U. leaders as they struggle to manage the refugee crisis with compassion and prudence.
✓ A lasting, permanent peace between Israel & her neighbors.

THOSE WHO HAVE DIED……..

PLEASE GIVE THANKS FOR......
✓ For all of our Mission Team Leaders and their families.
✓ And for those having birthdays this week: Erik Clayton and Mary Parsons on Tuesday; Deedee Sihvonen on Thursday; Oz Crosby and Deborah Smith on Friday.

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.
Collect of the Day: Divine Love, you call us into relationship with You, one another and the whole of the Creation. Enable each of us to relate to others with openness, compassion, caring and forgiveness; with Jesus, our Brother, Teacher and Lord. AMEN.

The Hebrew Scriptures: Reader: Our first scripture passage is found in the 96th Psalm. This Psalm calls all people of the earth and indeed the earth itself to worship God in God’s temple. The reason for the praise the psalm evokes is the identification of God as the one true lord of heaven and earth, the maker of all things. The song originated in a time and place in which many deities were recognized. Every nation had its gods and claimed them to have sovereignty. Please read Psalm 96 with me by reading the parts in bold print.

Sing to the Lord a new song; *
  sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; *
  proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations *
  and his wonders among all peoples.
For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *
  he is more to be feared than all gods.
As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
  but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
  Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; *
  ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; *
  bring offerings and come into his courts.
Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *
  let the whole earth tremble before him.
Here ends the reading.

The Sikh Scriptures: A Sikh is a follower of Sikhism, a monotheistic religion which originated during the 15th century in the Punjab region of the Indian subcontinent. A Sikh, according to Article I of the Sikh code of conduct, is "any human being who faithfully believes in One Immortal Being; ten Gurus, from Guru Nanak to Guru Sahib; the teachings of the ten Gurus and the baptism bequeathed by the tenth Guru.” Please read a passage from the Adi Granth with me by reading the parts in bold print.

Why do you go to the forest in search of God?
  He lives in all and is yet ever distinct;
He abides with you, too,
  As a fragrance dwells in a flower,
And reflection in a mirror;
  So does God dwell inside everything;
Seek Him, therefore, in your heart.
Here ends the reading.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.
After Jesus had finished all his sayings in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. A centurion there had a slave whom he valued highly, and who was ill and close to death. When he heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to him, asking him to come and heal his slave. When they came to Jesus, they appealed to him earnestly, saying, "He is worthy of having you do this for him, for he loves our people, and it is he who built our synagogue for us." And Jesus went with them, but when he was not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to say to him, "Lord, do not trouble yourself, for I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; therefore I did not presume to come to you. But only speak the word, and let my servant be healed. For I also am a man set under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes, and to another, 'Come,' and he comes, and to my slave, 'Do this,' and the slave does it." When Jesus heard this he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd that followed him, he said, "I tell you, not even in Israel have I found such faith." When those who had been sent returned to the house, they found the slave in good health.
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.

(Bible passages are reprinted with permission from the World Council of Churches. Passages from other traditions are reprinted with permission from World Scriptures.)
One of the themes we have been working with this year is that of discovering alternative ways of thinking about the nature of God or the Sacred beyond that of traditional theism; beyond thinking of God as an all-knowing, all-powerful Supreme Being “up there;” beyond thinking of the Sacred as the “Big Guy in the Sky.” These are ideas that no longer work for many in our post-scientific context. That reminds me of a story…A kindergarten teacher was walking around observing her classroom of children while they were drawing pictures. As she got to one girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was. The girl replied, “I'm drawing God.” The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like.” Without looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

A few months ago we noted that one possible alternative could be to focus on the nature of relationships, relationships shared between two or more people, between people and other living beings, between people and inanimate things and between people and the Ultimate. One way to think about the Sacred is to think about all of reality as fundamentally relational in nature. In other words, our search for the Holy, the Divine, the Infinite is leading us into an exploration of the nature of our connections to and interdependency with one another. And to help us with this investigation, we have turned to the 20th century Jewish philosopher, Martin Buber. Buber’s most famous work was published in 1923 just after World War I: “I and Thou.” For the next several weeks, we will attempt to understand the meaning of God by examining the meaning of our relationships with all forms of life, especially “I-Thou” or Intimate relationships.

I-Thou or Intimate relationships are intimate because they are deeply personal and are focused, not upon what you have done for me lately or can do for me in the future, but upon simply being present to one another in a manner that is open, curious and accepting. In such relationships, the other person (friend, family, stranger) is invited to meet me where I stand, in open, mutual reciprocity. An Intimate relationship can be described as two people being interested in and desirous to know deeply and completely the soul of the other. In an Intimate relationship, questions about who and what one loves, the experiences one has had in life and the deep feelings and secrets they carry inside are all appropriate and necessary. Buber once noted that within this kind of relation, our personal uniqueness enters into relationship with another's personal uniqueness, “as if a child has been laid in our arms and we are called upon to respond with our whole person.”

The Intimate relationship takes place only through genuine dialogue. Such dialogue is made possible when those communicating with one another share and participate in two characteristics: directness and grace. Let’s briefly discuss all three. Directness: Imagine yourself standing face-to-face with your Beloved or with your closest friend. Imagine looking directly into his or her eyes as he or she looks directly into yours. If Intimacy is to be born within this relationship, this meeting, this face-to-face encounter, then each of you must be open to the possibility of choosing and being chosen by the other. On the one hand, there must be the direct action of choosing to be in genuine dialogue, in
authentic openness, vulnerability, honesty and tenderness with this particular face standing in front of you gazing into your eyes. You have to act. You have to choose with awareness and intentionality. This of course involves a certain amount of risk. Choosing is risky business. You may be hurt or rejected just as you may be blessed and healed. Entering into Intimacy, i.e., genuine dialogue and authentic openness requires that we relinquish control; that we give up any fantasy that we can make the other into our own image or into what we want them to be. There are no guarantees that we will obtain what we seek. Therefore we choose by faith; we choose with a measure of trust that this act of choosing the other will ultimately bless and heal us.

But, choosing the other is only half of what is required. To achieve Intimacy, we must also consent to be chosen. In a profound way, we must surrender ourselves to the gaze of the other; we must give ourselves as we are, in our naked vulnerability, to this one who desires to choose us. Again, such surrender involves risk, perhaps more risk than the act of choosing. It requires a great deal of faith to surrender to the choosing of another; to look within ourselves and find the courage to allow ourselves to be given to another; to be given just as we are,warts and all; to be given with no way of knowing what will happen.

Grace is also necessary for the flourishing of an Intimate relationship. No matter how badly I may want genuine relationship, no matter how strongly and loudly I may demand that the Other give him or herself to me in openness, caring and vulnerability, I cannot make it happen. The Intimate relationship is not subject to the force of will. In fact, the application of such force, the intrusion of such “will to power” absolutely prohibits the birth and flourishing of genuine dialogue and intimacy. An Intimate relationship with another person is possible only through the effective grace of reciprocal acts of care and compassion. Grace is defined as the spontaneously created hope, life and human richness born between people when two or more simultaneously give themselves fully to one another. The act of choosing the one standing before you combined with the move toward relinquishing all control in order to surrender fully to him or her creates the context in which interpersonal grace gives birth to the Intimate relation; the relationship that heals, restores, blesses and gives life.

I suspect that today’s Gospel story (Luke 7:1-10) is an attempt to describe this interpersonal phenomenon. We are not told why and how, but the geographically absent centurion seems to be standing in front of Jesus gazing into his eyes more directly than anyone physically present with Jesus at the time. This Roman officer has acted to choose Jesus in the same moment he surrendered himself completely to him. And Jesus reciprocates by choosing and surrendering to him. Even though they are not physically present with one another, they are WITH one another; they are mutually present, open, vulnerable and loving to one another. The fruit of this Intimate encounter is the same as it is in our Intimate relationships: someone is healed, someone experiences abundant life and someone discovers great joy. Just as the writer of First John (4:16) refers to Love as God, perhaps the Event of Intimacy is yet another way to experience the Sacred if not yet another name for God.

Blessings,
Charles+
SUNDAY SCHOOL PRAYERS

The following are prayers that are prayed every Sunday in Sunday School:

Loving God,
We thank you for your never failing care and love for us.
Please help us to pass your love on to everyone who shares our lives.
Help us to treat all people, animals, and your whole beautiful earth
with kindness and caring.
Please help us to be your peacemakers in the world.
Amen

The Lord's Prayer in the words of St. Luke's fourth and fifth graders:

Our good ruler of the whole world, like a super loving parent -
Your name is honored.
Help us to make the world better and happier.
Give everyone in the world what they need,
and help us share the extra we have with others who don't have enough.
Forgive us for the bad stuff we do,
and help us forgive people who do bad stuff to us, so we won't have wars.
Make us not think it's OK to hurt other people,
and help us to say "No way!" when people try to make us do bad things.
For God is life and always bigger than everything.
The end!

HOSPITALITY GROUNDS
COMMUNITY GARDEN NEEDS

We are looking for an individual or a committee of individuals to take the leadership roles in our community garden. The tasks include:

Financial-
★ Collecting garden registration and payments
★ Being the liaison between the garden and St. Luke’s Executive Mission Council to assess financial needs.
★ Collecting receipts for supplies purchased and turning them in to Beckie for reimbursement.

Communications-
Taking over the email and Facebook accounts and communicate to the gardeners throughout the growing season.

Projects-
Assessing any building projects that need to be completed, researching cost of supplies and working with the Financial chairperson to determine if there are funds to do so.

Whether you are a gardener or not, if you have any interest in participating in this St. Luke's mission, then please contact Shannon Van Der Bosch: 801.597.8560. Hope to see you in the garden!
The Current Financial Health of Our Parish Community

April Total Pledge & Plate Donations $ 15,269
Budgeted Pledge Income $ 20,792
Received PLEDGE Income $ 14,339

Monthly Deficit $ 6,453

Budgeted Plate Income $ 2,500
Received PLATE Income $ 930

Monthly Deficit $ 1,570

April Income from other sources $ 1,723
April TOTAL Income $ 16,993
April TOTAL Expense $ 27,064

APRIL DEFICIT $ 10,071

TOTAL Year To Date Income $ 93,363
TOTAL Year To Date Expense $105,288

YEARLY DEFICIT $ 11,925
End of Month Cash Balance $ 12,107

Missions Balance on Jan. 1, 2016 $ 8,234
Missions Yearly Income $ 8,456
Missions Yearly Expense $ 3,263
TOTAL MISSIONS BALANCE $13,427

Renew your Vows

On Sunday, June 12th, during the 10:30 service, Fr. Charles will be officiating a Renewal of Vows for Jim and Shelle Jennings. They are celebrating 40 years of marriage.

The invitation is open to anyone that would also like to renew their wedding vows. If you would like to participate and also renew your vows, please let Fr. Charles know by Monday, June 6th.

To continue the celebration, a catered brunch will be served in the parish hall.
COFFEE HOUR HOSTS NEEDED:
Recently we have had a difficult time finding Coffee Hour Hosts. If you can help with this, please sign up on the sheet on the coffee table. Or if you would like more information please contact Sharon Christiansen at 561-289-9528.

CENTERING PRAYER:
Meets on 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

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 reading “Being Mortal” by Atul Gawande. 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. If anyone is willing to host for June or July, please let me know.

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 katherine-martz@comcast.net.

TAI-CHI
Tai chi will take a three week break. 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 will resume on Wednesday, June 15, 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
Meets in the library every Wednesday at 6:30 PM. We are studying Beth Moore's study on James. All women are welcome to join. Contact Mary at 645-3963 if you have questions.

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.